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BLIZZARDS IN THE BALKANS
HOMES BURIED IN 4 METRES OF SNOW {page 10}

NO MEATBALL PROBLEMS HERE
THANKS TO WAR OF 1812? {page 14}

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Tuesday, February 14, 2012
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News worth sharing.

Google-y eyes not so apparent in Toronto

Searches for Valentine's Day ideas lagging behind those in other Ont. cities ◐ Going Solo author says urbanites are OK with being single

As Ontario residents desperately seek ways to impress their partners on Valentine's Day, Torontonians prove to be more nonchalant in their quest for love.

Searches for Valentine's Day ideas, gifts and cards have skyrocketed across the province in the 90-day lead up to the holiday, according to Google's Insights for Search.

But even though it has the largest population, most of these romantically inclined searches aren't coming from Toronto. Rather, St. Catharines (nearly 20 times smaller than Hogtown) showed the most regional interest in Valentine's Day.

Considering many lovers' distractingly cute and "original" Valentine's Day plans are courtesy of a well-timed Google search, this data sparks the question: Are Torontonians too jaded for the love holiday?

Maybe — or maybe they're just not paired off. People, especially those in big cities, are increasingly happy to live solo, suggests research by Eric Klinenberg, a sociology professor at New York University.

Some GTA residents had other explanations for Toronto's apparent cold-heartedness when it comes to Cupid's big day.

"We're not less romantic, we're just bombarded everywhere with Valentine's ads," said Ruthann Brock, 23, an intern who lives in the city. "There's no need to look it up when it's already there."

Perhaps people are busy at work and wait until they commute home to conduct their Valentine's searches, said Ajax resident Nicole Ducille, 53.

But Mississauga resident Ron Maule, 45, had another explanation. "Everybody in Toronto has their mind on their busy schedules," he said. "They socialize rather than think about romance."

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Search-bar stats

According to Google, when it comes to searching for Valentine's Day, St. Catharines has the bigger heart.

1. St. Catharines
2. Windsor
3. Hamilton
4. London
5. Brampton
6. Kitchener
7. Mississauga
8. Ottawa
9. Toronto

▶ Are Torontonians cold to Valentine's Day or just to Googling it? The city came in at No. 9 on a list of cities searching for gifts, ideas and cards.

Education

All-day K is here to stay

◐ Ontario won't scrap full-day kindergarten despite recent report ◐ Privatization on the table {page 6}

Anne Rice is smitten

Author based book's hero on actor Matt Bomer {page 23}

Deaf woman tells of sex abuse, slavery

U.K. court hears woman was locked up for almost 10 years {page 8}

Raptors battle 'Lin-sanity'

Toronto coach says Jeremy Lin 'sideshow' should not distract from tonight's game {page 40}

All you need is Dove®

Happy Valentine's Day

Teachers' union issues Wi-Fi warning

The union representing the province's 45,000 Catholic teachers has issued a warning on the use of Wi-Fi in schools, asking that all new schools be hardwired because of potential health concerns.

"We do not know what the long-term effects of low-level non-ionizing radiation are on those who are exposed (workers and students)," says the position paper released late last week by the Ontario English Catholic Teachers Association.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

STEVE RUSSELL/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE FILE

▶ Rob Ford

Mayor stuck on 310 pounds

For Mayor Rob Ford, last week was unsuccessful in more ways than one.

He suffered the biggest defeat of his mayoral term. He also didn't lose any weight, registering the same 310 pounds he weighed last week. Coun. Doug Ford weighed 255 pounds, down between four and five from last week. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

VINCE TALOTTA/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

▶ Ken Horton, an EMS worker on his way to cast his vote on the proposed contract at the Ontario Federation of Labour building on Monday.

Outside workers approve deal with city

Toronto city council almost certain to back deal at special meeting on Wednesday ◐ Labour peace ensured for four years under the agreement

Outdoor city workers will get a six per cent raise over four years in exchange for significant concessions on job security.

Members of Canadian Union of Public Employees Local 416 ratified the proposed collective agreement on Monday. It was endorsed by a "large majority" of members, said local president Mark Ferguson.

"We faced incredible challenges in this round of bargaining including an employer that failed to reach compromises at many points," he said.

Under the agreement, the city will spend millions more on wages than it would have if Mayor Rob Ford had accepted Local 416's unusual public offer to take a three-year wage freeze.

Ford, however, won a far greater ability to reap savings through outsourcing. The previous collective agreement lasted three years.

"The contract is a good one for the employees and a good one for the taxpayers. The fact that it goes four years is especially good, because it'll take us past the (2015) Pan Am Games," Deputy Mayor Doug Holyday said before union vote results were annouced. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Local 416

- Local 416 members will get a raise of about 4.5 per cent in their base salaries over the last three years of the contract. Their wages will be frozen this year, but they will get a 1.5 per cent lump-sum payment next year.
- Local 416 represents about 6,000 workers, including garbage collectors and paramedics.

1 news

A study has revealed that the supply of donated organs has remained relatively flat since 2006. Scan code for the story.

To scan 2D barcodes in Metro, download the free ScanLife app at 2dscan.com.

On the web at metronews.ca

The U.S. markets have been sizzling in the early days of 2012, so why are retail investors still gloomy? Allan Small explains at metronews.ca/investing

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Minimum sentence for gun possession shot down

Judge gives man conditional sentence of five months after credit for seven months served in custody ◐ Crown expected to appeal ruling: Defence lawyer

An Ontario Superior Court judge has struck down the three-year mandatory minimum sentence for gun possession, saying it constitutes cruel and unusual punishment in violation of the charter.

"This is binding on the Ontario Court (of Justice) and it's highly persuasive in the Superior Court," said defence lawyer Dirk Derstine, who argued the case at a sentencing hearing.

In a 42-page decision released Monday, Justice Anne Molloy wrote that sending Leroy Smickle to prison for three years is "grossly disproportionate" to the circumstances of this case.

"To impose such onerous punishment would, in my view, be grossly disproportionate to what Mr. Smickle deserves for a single act of bad judgment and foolishness."
JUSTICE ANNE MOLLOY

A reasonable person aware of its facts, the principles underlying the charter and sentencing provisions of the Criminal Code "would consider a three-year sentence to be fundamentally unfair," Molloy wrote.

The "declaration of invalidity" of Section 95 (2) of the Criminal Code is effective immediately.

Just before 2 a.m. on March 9, 2009, Smickle was alone in a cousin's apartment when he took photos of himself holding a loaded handgun.

Wearing boxer shorts, tank top and sunglasses, and using the web camera on his laptop, Smickle intended to post the photo on Facebook.

The timing was bad. Officers with the Toronto Police Service Emergency Task Force were gathered outside the apartment preparing to execute a search warrant that named Rojohn Brown, a distant cousin, as the target.

"They smashed in the door of the apartment with a battering ram and Mr. Smickle was literally caught red-handed, with a loaded firearm in his hand," Molloy wrote.

Brown was not at home at the time.

Molloy convicted Smickle of possessing a loaded firearm, but she also wrote that while the 31-year-old is guilty of "colossally bad judgment," she accepts he was posing with the weapon as a prop, much like the sunglasses.
TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Crime.

▶ Supt. Rick Penney, the RCMP's GTA drug-enforcement commander, holds up a sheet of seized hashish while standing in front of containers of liquid, seized in a separate investigation, that is used to produce a date-rape drug. The two international drug seizures, worth a street value of $117 million, have led to the arrests of eight men from the GTA, the RCMP announced Monday. Five Toronto men were charged in October in connection with the seizure of 5.7 tonnes of hashish, worth $69 million, bound for Toronto from Afghanistan. In the second case, three Markham men were charged last month with importing 2,900 litres of Gamma-butyrolactone, which could produce up to 4.8 million doses, or $48 million worth, of a date-rape drug.

RICHARD J. BRENNAN/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Massive RCMP drug busts net eight arrests

Dead boy's statements to be heard in court

CONTRIBUTED

▶ Mitchell Wilson

An 11-year-old boy's statements to police before he committed suicide will be admitted at the trial of another Ontario boy accused of assaulting and robbing him.

Justice Mary Teresa Devlin ruled Monday in Oshawa that 11-year-old Mitchell Wilson's written statements will be admissible.

Durham regional police allege the suspect slammed Mitchell's face into the sidewalk and stole his iPhone in Pickering in November 2010.

Mitchell, who suffered from muscular dystrophy, killed himself last September, the day he was subpoenaed to testify in the case. His parents have said he was being bullied.

Craig Wilson, Mitchell's father, has said his son suffered panic attacks and severe depression following the incident. Wilson said his son was afraid to face his alleged attacker in court. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Committee stands by subway plans

Mayor Rob Ford's executive committee has voted to push ahead with plans for a Sheppard subway extension.

Monday's vote came five days after a specially called meeting at which city council largely derailed Ford's subway vision with a 25-18 endorsement of a return to a light-rail plan.

While confirming support for a partially buried LRT on Eglinton Avenue and a surface line on Finch Avenue, council stopped short of completely dashing Ford's multibillion-dollar dream of extending the Sheppard subway to Scarborough Town Centre primarily through private investment.

Ford has dismissed council's vote as "irrelevant" and is lobbying the public and the province to ignore it and proceed with his plan for a buried Eglinton LRT and a Sheppard subway.
TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Woman with HIV accused of sex assault

A woman who allegedly failed to tell a sexual partner she's HIV-positive is under arrest, and Toronto police fear there may be more victims.

The force alleges the woman had sex with a man last Christmas Eve without telling him she has HIV, the virus that causes AIDS.

Priscilla Hogan was arrested Monday as part of a sexual assault investigation.

Police describe the 38-year-old as white, four-foot-11 and 160 pounds, with blond or light brown hair.

She has a tattoo of a gun and flag on her left arm and may also go by Priscilla Mambassi or Priscilla Mampassi. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Funeral protester can sue police

A judge has ruled that a man who protested at Sgt. Ryan Russell's funeral procession last year can proceed with his civil action against the Toronto police.

The city, which employs the police, brought a motion Monday to dismiss Eric Brazau's action in small-claims court, largely because Brazau's claims of false arrest and imprisonment were dismissed as "unsubstantiated" by the Office of the Independent Police Review Director.

After his OIPRD case was closed, Brazau launched a $25,000 lawsuit against police for unlawful arrest and imprisonment.
TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

VINCE TALOTTA/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

▶ Bill Stewart

Fire chief stepping down

After nine years helming Canada's largest fire department, Toronto's fire chief is calling it quits.

Bill Stewart, who has led Toronto Fire Services since 2003, quietly announced plans Monday to retire on April 30.

"I've done my public service," said Stewart. "It's time to spend time with my wife and family."
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40
Toronto Fire Services Chief Bill Stewart is retiring after a 40-year firefighting career.

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All-day kindergarten staying put

Ontario has no plans to scrap program despite Drummond report, says Finance Minister Dwight Duncan ◐ LCBO headquarters land to be sold

Asset sales and privatization are on the table as Ontario looks to balance its books, but scrapping full-day kindergarten is not, the finance minister said Monday.

The province will sell the LCBO's headquarters property on prime Toronto real estate near the waterfront, a move expected to generate $200 million, Dwight Duncan said in a speech to the Economic Club of Canada.

A long-awaited report from former TD Bank economist Don Drummond on Wednesday is expected to recommend harsh service cuts to eliminate Ontario's deficit.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

NATHAN DENETTE/THE CANADIAN PRESS

▶ Ontario Finance Minister Dwight Duncan

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Bill's critics siding with child porn: Toews

FRED CHARTRAND/THE CANADIAN PRESS

▶ Public Safety Minister Vic Toews

The government says anyone who opposes federal plans to make electronic surveillance easier for police and spies is siding with child pornographers.

It's the first salvo in a battle that will resume Tuesday when the government reintroduces legislation that would expand online monitoring powers.

The issue pits the desire of intelligence and law-enforcement officials to have easier access to information about Internet users against the individual's right to privacy.

Asked Monday in the House of Commons about the coming bill, Public Safety Minister Vic Toews told a Liberal MP he could either stand with the government or "with the child pornographers" prowling online.

Still, opposition MPs were alarmed by his comments Monday.

"Apparently if you care about civil liberties in this country you obviously side with child pornographers, murderers," said Green party Leader Elizabeth May.

"You're the worst form of scum if you believe the charter's an important instrument for the rule of law in this country," May says. "I'm horrified by this kind of rhetoric. It demeans us all." THE CANADIAN PRESS

Premier's bid to televise hearing blocked

A judge has blocked an attempt by B.C. Premier Christy Clark to have the court case of a Stanley Cup rioter televised.

Provincial court Judge Malcolm MacLean has denied an application by the Crown to broadcast the sentencing of 20-year-old Ryan Dickinson, who has pleaded guilty to participating in the riot last June.

MacLean says there are many issues that have yet to be addressed, from the safety of court personnel and judges to what will happen to the footage after it's on the Internet, and he doesn't want to delay Dickinson's sentencing hearing, scheduled for Tuesday.

Instead, MacLean says a lawyer should be appointed to explore those issues in greater detail.

MacLean also rejected the suggestion by Dickinson's lawyer that the application to televise the proceedings was politically motivated.

Clark used a throne speech last year to announce she'd be directing Crown counsel to make such applications in every case, and this was the first such application.

MacLean noted that he doesn't expect other judges to be bound by his decision, as they may have different concerns with the prospect of televising court proceedings.

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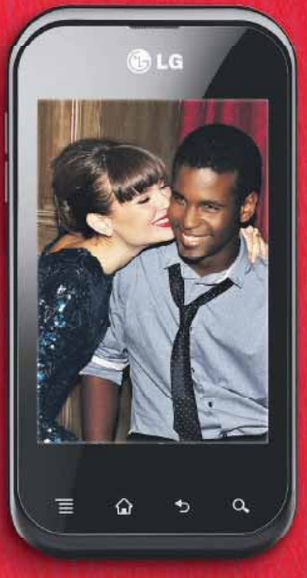

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THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

▶ An Indian police officer stands next to the wreckage of a car belonging to the Israeli Embassy that was destroyed in a blast in New Delhi, Monday.

Israeli diplomats targeted by bombs

◐ Violence adds tension to standoff ◐ Iran accused of nuclear program that Israel says threatens Jewish state

Israel blamed Iran on Monday for bomb attacks on its diplomats' cars in India and Georgia, heightening concerns that the Jewish state was moving closer to striking its archenemy.

Iran denied responsibility for the attacks that appeared to mirror the recent killings of Iranian nuclear scientists that Tehran blamed on Israel.

The blast in New Delhi set a car ablaze and injured four people, including an Israeli embassy driver and a diplomat's wife; the device in Georgia was discovered and safely defused.

"Iran is behind these attacks and it is the largest terror exporter in the world," Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu told lawmakers from his Likud Party.

Comments by Israeli officials in recent weeks have raised fears Israel might be preparing to strike Iranian nuclear facilities.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Canada reacts

- Canada condemned Monday's attacks on Israeli diplomatic targets in India and Georgia.
- Foreign Affairs Minister John Baird called the attacks "senseless" and urged the Indian and Georgian authorities to ensure the perpetrators are brought to justice.

Deaf woman describes sexual abuse, slavery

Locked in a cellar where she was allegedly raped and beaten for nearly a decade, a young deaf and mute Pakistani woman told a U.K. court on Monday how she was trafficked into Britain and forced to work as a virtual slave.

The woman, whose age is not known, said she was around 10 when she was brought to the northern city of Manchester as a domestic servant in 2000. She cannot be identified for legal reasons.

A Pakistani couple — 83-year-old Ilyas Ashar and his wife, 66-year-old Tallat Ashar — are charged with false imprisonment, human trafficking, sexual offences, violence and benefit fraud. Both have pleaded not guilty to the charges.

Speaking through an interpreter and using sign language, the woman — thought to be 19 or in her 20s — described how she was allegedly hit with a rolling pin while forced to work for no money, made to sleep on a concrete floor in a bolted cellar and sexually abused.

When prosecutors showed her a picture of Ilyas Ashar, she said: "He's the one who has sex with me."

She said Ashar's wife would repeatedly strike her with her ring, sometimes when she made too much noise by setting dishes on the table.

"I would be down in the cellar, sitting alone and very upset," she said. "I would sit there for a long, long time, really upset and crying. I could not get out."

The trial continues in Minshull Street Crown Court in Manchester.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Rescue raid

- The girl was rescued after a police raid in 2009. It wasn't immediately clear if other government agencies were investigating the couple or why.
- The couple are also accused of allegedly claiming benefits in her name but withholding any proceeds.
- It isn't immediately clear how the couple were able to bring the girl to Britain.
- The Border Agency, which falls under control of the Home Office, had no immediate comment as to how the girl would have been allowed into the country as a domestic servant or whether the matter was being investigated, but a spokeswoman said she would look into the matter.

Tops doffed over Russian gas pricing

Five Ukrainian women activists held a topless protest outside the Moscow headquarters of Gazprom, to denounce the policies of the Russian gas supplier.

Police detained one of the women from the protest group Femen who had climbed onto the roof of a building at the entrance.

Ukraine is dependent on Russia for supplies of natural gas and is demanding to pay lower prices. Moscow has refused to budge unless Ukraine agrees to give up control over the export pipelines that carry Russian gas on to Europe.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Syrian attack on key rebel town foiled, activists say

Syrian rebels repelled a push Monday by government tanks into a central town held by forces fighting President Bashar Assad's regime in an 11-month conflict that looks increasingly like a civil war.

The military pressed its offensive on Rastan a day after the regime rejected Arab League calls for the UN to create a peacekeeping force in Syria and for an end to the violent crackdown on dissent. Damascus called the League initiative "a flagrant interference in (Syria's) internal affairs and an infringement upon national sovereignty."

With diplomatic efforts bogged down, the conflict is taking on the dimensions of a civil war, with army defectors clashing almost daily with soldiers. The rebels have taken control of small swathes of territory in central Homs province, where Rastan is located, and the northwestern province of Idlib, which borders Turkey.

The Britain-based activist group Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said at least three government soldiers were killed in the attempt to storm Rastan, which has been held by the rebels since late January.

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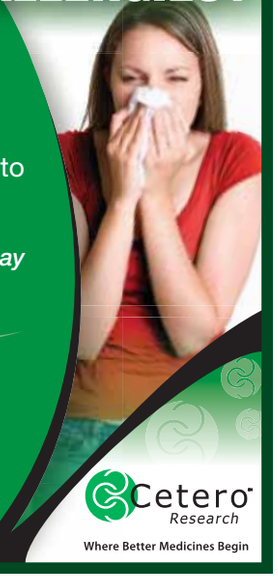

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VLADIMIR GOGIC/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

▶ A Serbian police helicopter delivers food to sailors stuck on stranded boats on the Danube River near Smederevo, Serbia, on Monday. Heavy snow continues to fall as some 50,000 people remain stranded in snowbound remote areas, some without electricity.

Snowbound in Europe

Military flying in food to villagers trapped by snow, cold temperatures

Military planes and police helicopters flew in tonnes of emergency food to snowbound villages and ships in the Balkans on Monday, after blizzards so fierce that some people had to cut tunnels through four metres of snow to get out of their homes.

Since the end of January, Eastern Europe has been pummeled by a record-breaking cold snap and the heaviest snowfall in recent memory. Hundreds of people, many of them homeless, have died in the bitter cold and tens of thousands have been trapped by blocked roads inside homes with little heat.

Authorities declared a state of emergency Monday in eastern Romania, where 6,000 people have been cut off for days. About a dozen major roads were closed, 300 trains cancelled and more than 1,000 schools shut down.

In addition to the flights, the defence ministry also sent 8,000 soldiers out clearing roads across Romania and helping those trapped by the overwhelming snow.

Emergency officials in Serbia used helicopters to deliver food and evacuate sailors stuck on icebound boats on the Danube river near the town of Smederevo. They also resupplied a Danube island near Pancevo, north of the capital of Belgrade.

Scores of flights across the region were cancelled. The airport in the southern Romanian city of Craiova was closed after a plane carrying 48 people skidded during takeoff Monday and landed in a pile of snow, breaking its propellers.

President Traian Basescu tried to assure Romanians the country has enough energy supplies to prevent shortages but said the government was deciding whether to stop exporting energy, which national energy company Transelectrica wants to do.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

VADIM GHIRDA/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

▶ Elisabeta Dumitrache, 77, pauses while speaking to a television journalist as firefighters dig her house out of the snow in the village of Carligul Mic, Romania.

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Departs Mar 26/nol/c6.

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Departs Mar 3/sqv/jz.

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From stable to table?

Retired Vancouver petting zoo animals may have been slaughtered, some officials fear

Dozens of animals that delighted children at a now-closed petting zoo operated by the City of Vancouver may have ended up on someone's dinner table.

Vancouver Park Board chairwoman Constance Barnes said a city lawyer has been told to take action against a Fraser Valley farmer if it's proved he sold some of the animals for meat.

"The reality is farm animals are sent to auction every day and nobody bats an eye, but these individuals promised, and it is unfortunate if some of the goats were sent to auction." MARCIE MORIARTY, SPCA

She said the farmer signed an adoption agreement with the park board in which he agreed not to slaughter the animals.

The agreement required the farmer to allow the goats and sheep from the Stanley Park petting zoo to live out their natural lives, but Barnes said there is concern that most of the 17 goats and four sheep sent to the Langley farm were sold to a slaughterhouse.

The SPCA's Marcie Moriarty says the park board has contracted the SPCA to inspect properties where other animals were adopted.

Goats, sheep, cows, pigs, donkeys and a pony were among the animals adopted by hobby farms and private owners around Greater Vancouver when the children's zoo in Stanley Park closed last year. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Tense. Moments

▶ Police escort a blindfolded suspect, in white, on Monday at Schiphol Airport near Amsterdam.

EVERT ELZINGA/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Bomb threat closes airport

Two terminals were evacuated and numerous flights were delayed at Amsterdam's busy Schiphol Airport on Monday when a man locked himself in a toilet, claiming to have a bomb. Police managed to arrest the man, who turned out not to have any explosives, and operations at the airport returned to normal.

Bosses get 16 years for asbestos deaths

An Italian court convicted two men of negligence on Monday in some 2,000 asbestos-related deaths blamed on a Swiss company. The court in Turin sentenced each of them to 16 years in prison and ordered them to pay millions in what officials called a historic case.

Prosecutors said Jean-Louise de Cartier of Belgium and Stephan Schmidheiny of Switzerland, both key shareholders in Swiss construction firm Eternit, failed to stop asbestos fibres left over from production of roof coverings and pipes at its northern Italian factories from spreading across the region. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Industry reaction

- A representative for Canada's asbestos sector says he doesn't believe similar criminal charges could be laid against industry players here.
- Spokesman Guy Versailles says if it were possible, charges already would have been filed.
- But law expert Ed Ratushny says criminal charges could be possible in Canada, even if it might be difficult for prosecutors to obtain a conviction.

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Iraqis feeling the

Country's residents going all out for Valentine's Day Holiday an escape from the usual violence

Iraq's capital is embracing Valentine's Day this year with a huge public display of affection in what its residents say is the nation's most amorous celebration of the holiday ever.

Street corners across Baghdad are blanketed with the synthetic red fur of teddy bears, while silken nighties and lip-shaped satin pillows hang in store fronts.

"It's for you and I, for me and my brother, even for someone on the street. It's not just about me and my fiancé," said Lina, a school administrator who would only identify herself by her first name.

After decades of war and dictator rule, and with improving security, Iraqis say they are able to relax and enjoy Valentine's this year.

"Iraqis need happy moments to make them forget what they have been through. We have had enough sadness."
LINA, SCHOOL ADMINISTRATOR

But Valentine's Day may come with its own baggage.

Conservative Muslims, from Indonesia to Saudi Arabia, have strongly frowned on the holiday's growing popularity around the world as an encouragement of perceived Western decadence and premarital sex.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Relationship artifacts find home in museum

DARKO BANDIC/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

▶ A damaged garden gnome is displayed at the Museum of Broken Relationships in Zagreb, Croatia.

What becomes of a garden gnome hurled in fury at a car during a stormy breakup?

Or a teddy bear that was once a Valentine's Day present? A wedding dress from a marriage gone awry? An axe that smashed through household furniture?

All are on display at the Museum of Broken Relationships in the Croatian capital, each with written testimonies telling tales of passion, romance and heartbreak.

On Valentine's Day, the museum sees its visits almost double.

"The objects that are here represent all the stages of a breakup ... and how people go through love," said Drazen Grubisic, a designer and artist who co-founded the museum in 2010 in the Croatian capital.

"We might say it's a love museum, just upside down," he said.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Clerics call for boycott of holiday

Muslim clerics are suggesting Indonesians skip Valentine's Day celebrations.

Cleric councils have banned celebrations in Banten and Palembang provinces. The Aceh Assembly of Clerics said celebrating the Western cultural event would be inappropriate for Muslims.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

240M

Indonesia is a secular but mostly Muslim nation of 240 million people. Aceh is the only Indonesian province where Islamic law is imposed.

V-Day love

HADI MIZBAN/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

▶ A woman and a girl shop for Valentine's Day gifts in Baghdad on Saturday. Iraq's capital is going all out this Valentine's Day, with street corners across Baghdad blanketed with symbols of love.

Mobile lovers dialed in

From his Karradah storefront, Abdul-Wahab Abdul-Rahaman has watched the demand for toddler-sized red teddy bears and plush hearts soar this year. He speculates it's because young lovers now meet and talk more frequently with the help of their mobile phones.

Mobile phones, satellite TV and the Internet were virtually banned during Saddam's regime.

"The new communication means help making relationships between the sexes faster than before," Abdul-Wahab said. "I think I will sell all my Valentine's Day products." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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War of 1812 saved us from 'Snookification': Poll

25% of Canadians say the war defines identity Americans, not so much

Canadians and Americans have vastly different attitudes about the War of 1812, a new poll suggests.

The Ipsos Reid survey conducted for the Historica Dominion Institute found that Americans see it as a war that produced their national anthem. Canadians see it as a war that saved them from assimilation and preserved them from U.S. politics and gun laws. Fifty-four per cent of Canadians felt the most significant outcome was that the U.S. invaders were turned back.

Americans had a dramatically different take. For one-third of them, the key outcome of the war was their national anthem. Francis Scott Key wrote the words to the Star Spangled Banner after watching a British naval bombardment of Baltimore's Fort McHenry in September 1814. About 36 per cent saw no significant outcome at all.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Snooki-metrics

- When Canadians were asked what would be their main concern had the war gone the other way, 60 per cent said they wouldn't want the U.S. political system.
- Another 18 per cent said they wouldn't want U.S. gun laws.
- Six per cent said they wouldn't want to share citizenship with Snooki and her cohorts from Jersey Shore.

Smoking is butt-ugly, young Brits say

More than three-quarters of young adults in Britain find smokers "unattractive," new research suggests.

A poll by the British Department of Health found that 74 per cent of 18- to 24-year-olds would turn down a kiss from a smoker, while 76 per cent agreed that smoking makes people less attractive.

The results would appear to fly in the face of popular movies and television programs in which smokers are often portrayed as sexy.

But Sarah Beeny, founder of dating website mysinglefriend.com, said the numbers support her observations as a matchmaker. She said 67 per cent of respondents on the website say smoking would put them off dating someone.

"While some people can see past it, it does influence a person's decision to date you," she said.

ROMINA MCGUINNESS/METRO WORLD NEWS

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Ottawa decries new U.S. bank reforms

Changes designed to limit risk-taking by U.S. banks

Canada has stepped up its fight against new bank restrictions proposed by the United States which Ottawa says would adversely affect saving and borrowing costs north of the border.

In separate letters to Washington policy-makers, Finance Minister Jim Flaherty and Bank of Canada governor Mark Carney complain that sweeping reforms under the so-called "Volcker rule" would reach well beyond their intended scope.

Due to the differences between the two countries, the impact could be greater in Canada, making savings through mutual funds and borrowing more expensive.

"The rule, as currently drafted, would have an unprecedented extraterritorial reach and significant cross-border effects ... given the close inter-linkages between the Canadian and U.S. financial systems," Flaherty wrote Monday.

Flaherty and Carney say they respect the intent of the law, but not how it would impact institutions outside the country.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

SEAN KILPATRICK/THE CANADIAN PRESS

▶ Jim Flaherty

Market moment

PRICES AS OF 5 P.M. MONDAY

TSX	Dollar	Oil	Natural gas	Gold
+ 9.27 (12,398.69)	+ 0.35¢ (100.07¢ US)	+ $2.24 US ($100.91 US)	$2.43 US (- 5¢ US)	$1,724.90 US (- 40¢ US)

PATRIOTIC PLAYLIST

CBC unveils new online music portal

The CBC has launched a new free online music service with streaming access to dozens of genre-themed stations.

Along with links to stream CBC's Radio 2 and Radio 3 stations, web surfers can select from a range of music channels to listen to, including several subgenres of classical, jazz, rock, pop, country, blues, R&B, hip-hop, aboriginal and electronic music.

CBC Music also offers a limited selection of albums available to listen to on demand, including independent Canadian acts Arcade Fire, Austra, Bahamas, Islands and Plants and Animals.

There is also a collection of more than 500 live performances available to stream.

The new music service is available on the web and in app format for iPhones and iPads.

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Bailout still faces obstacles

Eurozone parliaments must pass plan or risk pushing Greece closer to missing March bond redemption

Greece faces further hurdles and delays before it can receive a second, $171 billion US bailout despite its lawmakers voting through more austerity measures in the face of violent protests.

The European Union's Economic Affairs Commissioner Olli Rehn on Monday called the Greek Parliament's approval of a further round of budget cuts a "crucial step forward," but Germany insisted it would still take some time before the second bailout is delivered.

Germany, which as Europe's biggest economy pays the largest part in bailout deals, said it wouldn't give its final approval for the new aid payments until early March — after it becomes clear how many banks and investment funds are willing to take losses on their Greek bonds and the parliament in Berlin votes on the new measures.

"Germany is trying to get the best deal it can by putting pressure on Greece now," said Ben May, European economist at Capital Economics in London. The idea is to "give Greece a bit more of an incentive over the next few weeks to speed things up and get things moving."

Uncertainty over the new rescue money could dissuade some of Greece's private investors from participating in a separate bond swap deal, May warned.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

PETROS GIANNAKOURIS/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A municipality worker cleans up outside a burned bank building in central Athens on Monday. Rioting took over the city after lawmakers approved harsh new austerity measures demanded by bailout creditors.

Greece cleans up after riots engulf Athens

Firefighters doused smouldering buildings and cleanup crews swept rubble from the streets of central Athens following a night of rioting during which lawmakers approved harsh new austerity measures.

Police said Monday that rioters destroyed or damaged more than 110 buildings, including nine national heritage buildings, while 30 stores were looted.

Authorities said 109 police needed medical care, while at least 70 protesters were hospitalized.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

170

More than 170 people were hurt in the rioting, which also broke out in other Greek cities.

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JESSICA NAPIER
METRO

Valentine's Day, in all its saccharin-sweet glory, is the perfect litmus test for determining the current status of your relationship.

Couples embarking on their first Valentine's night together will pull out all the stops. There will be candle-lit dinners, elaborate gifts and racy lingerie with more tassels and wiring than a Cirque du Soleil costume.

For long-term partners, this candy-heart holiday might as well just be any other Tuesday. If things get super-romantic, you'll share an extra-large pizza and peel off your flannel PJs at the end of the night for some obligatory Valentine's Day sex.

As much as we might hate to admit it, somewhere along the way the honeymoon phase ends and the comfortable stage begins. So how does a passionate duo turn into Team Sweatpants, and what can stuck-in-a-rut couples do to put the spark back in the relationship?

"Suddenly that sexy stranger from across the room is the guy who doesn't cut his toenails and leaves his wet towels on the floor."

I posed the question to relationship expert and registered sex therapist Dr. Teesha Morgan because, frankly, we could all benefit from some sexpert advice at this time of year.

"In the beginning, relationships are often ignited and kept alive by lust," says Morgan.

When we start dating someone new, we have a tendency to project onto our partners all the good qualities that we want him or her to have, rather than what exists in actuality. Once the novelty wears off, we come to realize that our perfect partner is actually human. Suddenly that sexy stranger from across the room is the guy who doesn't cut his toenails and leaves his wet towels on the floor. Attraction turns to frustration and the fire begins to burn out.

As Hallmark-y as it might be, Valentine's Day is a good opportunity to look at your own relationship and evaluate whether or not you could use a little more excitement.

If you want to reignite that initial spark, you've got to make your significant other a priority. Ensure your partner feels desired by showing an interest in trying new things together on the intimacy front. "Variety truly is the spice of life," says Morgan. "Willingness to step outside the box and become a little more adventurous is an important factor to the longevity of a satisfying sex life."

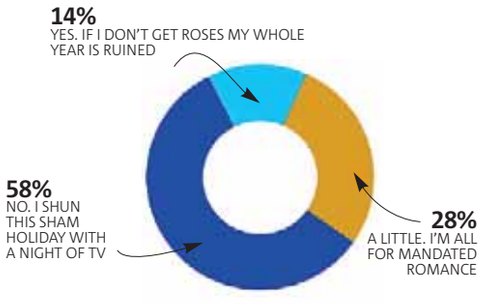
So instead of reaching for the remote tonight, try reaching for, well, something else.

There are plenty of options out there, but it's up to you to make an effort to bring sexy back this Valentine's Day, whether it's your first, fifth or 50th year together between the sheets.

Read more of Jessica Napier's columns at metronews.ca/shesays

Register at metropolitanpanel.ca and take the quick poll

Do you stress over getting a Valentine's Day date?


14%
YES. IF I DON'T GET ROSES MY WHOLE YEAR IS RUINED
58%
NO. I SHUN THIS SHAM HOLIDAY WITH A NIGHT OF TV
28%
A LITTLE. I'M ALL FOR MANDATED ROMANCE

Local tweets

@Jessica Frayne: Tomorrow is ~~Valentine's Day~~ toonie tuesday :)

@Drafted_Boy: Impressive that the #SMWTOroi panel members understand the experimental aspect of social media as the medium develops #SMWTO

@JavaidMehreen: You can tell times are bad when the govt starts selling assets....LCBO's Toronto headquarter up on sale!!!

@jonschachter: Disagree with the Conservatives and you're a Nazi or a pedophile. Over 60% of Canadian voters supported other parties. So... #cdnpoli

@KarenLinsley2: The cdn gov't gone crazy? Gun registry is intrusive & like Hitler. Vic Toews wants to track all our online info & this is not intrusive?

@jkoblovsky: If the conservatives are hell bent on testing the charter with legislation, why not open up the Charter for debate? #cdnpoli #lawfulaccess

Daily Zoom

TONY'S GALLERY

Artist covers her room with yarn

LONDON. This woolly room will have you bouncing off the walls! At Tony's Gallery off Brick Lane, London, an artist has crocheted a life-sized replica of her bedroom, complete with explicit messages from her personal life. Polish-born artist Agata Oleksiak, a.k.a. Olek, found fame after veiling New York monuments in yarn. MWN

60 seconds

KNITTING & VODKA

How long did this take you?
Seven months in total. I don't know the amount of wool I used. The floor cover and walls were reused from past exhibits.

Why do you crochet?
It's not some ol' granny pastime but a method to show the connections between art and my life.

You must have a lot of patience to knit all that.
I spent two months living in this room knitting. I watched Jim Jarmusch and Wim Wenders movies and drank nut-flavoured vodka to pass the time!

And your dream artwork?
To crochet the entire White House. That would be amazing. Obviously I would need the entire nation to help me crochet.

ANTHONY JOHNSTON

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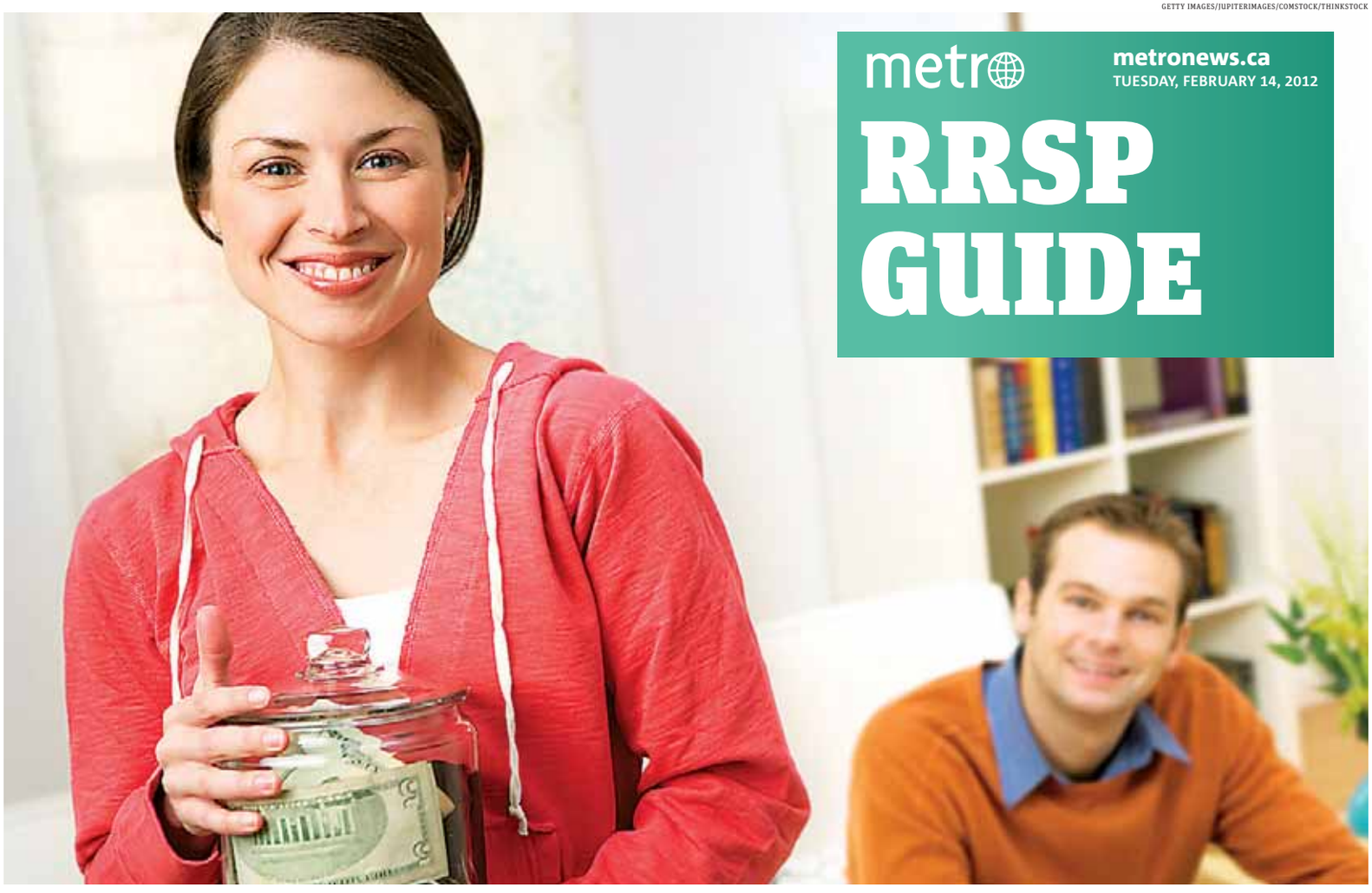

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TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2012

RRSP GUIDE

Pros & Cons

Should you take out a loan to invest in an RRSP?

JANE DOUCET
FOR METRO

Borrowing money to invest in an RRSP has many advantages.

Besides the immediate tax savings, it allows you to increase the amount you have to invest, take advantage of tax-sheltered compounding, boost your investment returns, achieve your long-term financial goals faster and build a larger and more diversified retirement portfolio.

But how do you know if you should take out this type of loan? It's a good idea to borrow for an RRSP if you want to make a contribution now but don't have any money set aside, you want to take advantage of your unused contribution room, or you are in a higher marginal tax bracket than you were last year.

RRSP loans have low interest rates, flexible repayment options of up to 10 years, deferred payments of up to 90 days and no early repayment penalty. That's all good news. But what about the downsides?

"The biggest problem with RRSP loans is that people don't put the tax savings back onto the loan," says Stephen Cox, a certified financial planner professional with Desjardins Financial Security Independent Network in Halifax.

"Instead, they'll use it to take a vacation or buy an expensive item they've been eyeing."

Another pitfall is that those who take out a long-term RRSP loan — say, over five to 10 years — get sick of making the payments.

"Most people take the longer-term loan intending to pay it back sooner, but few do," says Cox.

"It's a better idea to take out a loan for a smaller amount over a shorter period of time, such as one or two years."

If you borrow for an RRSP and the market does well, then you are ahead of the game.

But if it doesn't do well?

"You could possibly pay more in interest on the loan over time than what you saved in tax," says Cox. "It's unlikely, but possible."

CREATAS/THINKSTOCK

Women face special retirement circumstances

There are special considerations for women when it comes to retirement financial planning.

Several factors may impact their pension and savings, such as situations where women may leave the workforce to care for parents, children, or both.

Another reality is that women often live longer than men, and when paired with the fact that for many married couples, the husband is older than the wife, this may add up to a longer time in retirement for women than men.

When you consider that data suggests post-retirement years have stretched to 20 years from 13, or 54 per cent longer, it's clear a proportionate increase in savings is needed to fund a longer retirement.

"While longevity is exciting when thinking about additional years out of the workforce and more time with family and friends, it may be somewhat concerning when it comes to retirement savings," says Crystal Wong, senior regional manager, TD Waterhouse Financial Planning.

So what can women do to help ensure their retirement planning is on the right track? Wong offers her suggestions:

- Ensure you have a written, comprehensive financial plan. A recent TD Waterhouse poll found that only 31 per cent of Canadian women have a financial plan.
- Consider working with a financial adviser to ensure your investments match your long-term goals such as retirement, estate planning and kids' education.
- Take an active interest in your family's finances.

"What's most important is feeling confident that your future is financially secure," adds Wong. "And by having a financial plan that includes a clear retirement savings plan and measures in case of the unexpected, you're in good shape."

NEWS CANADA

Different variables for entrepreneurs

JANE DOUCET
FOR METRO

Creating a retirement savings plan can be more challenging for small business owners than for other people.

That's because entrepreneurs must consider multiple sources of retirement income, special tax considerations and succession issues when building a retirement plan.

Many entrepreneurs assume that their business will fund a substantial portion of their retirement.

"While the equity in your business can be an important source of income, diversification is the best risk-management strategy," says Robert McCullagh, the owner of Benefit Planners Inc., a Calgary-based integrated financial planning firm, and the past chair of the board of directors of Advocis, The Financial Advisors Association of Canada.

In McCullagh's experience, entrepreneurs typically have an overstated value in mind of what their business is worth, both current and long term.

"Most assume that when they sell their business, it will be viable, relevant, debt free and cash positive," he says.

But many variables can impact the projections of its worth. For example, what if you plan to sell your business in 10 years, but become stricken with a fatal illness at the three-year mark, meaning you are forced to sell significantly sooner?

"You can't assume that you'll stay healthy until you retire," says McCullagh.

Or what if in your final years of operation you become entangled in a lawsuit, either as the plaintiff or the defendant? And what if the economic marketplace changes quickly, causing your business to become devalued?

Other issues to consider are whether the buyer will be paying for a client list or purchasing shares in a corporation. Then there's the matter of the payout. Will it be all out front, or distributed over time?

"A business is an excellent way to augment a well-planned retirement program, but it has its pitfalls," says McCullagh.

"You don't want to depend solely on it."

Other sources

A business owner's retirement income is likely to come from other sources, including both registered and non-registered investments. An RRSP remains an important retirement-planning tool that generates ongoing personal tax deductions for your contributions. Plus, your earnings will accumulate tax deferred for as long as they remain in the plan.

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Saving for your Golden years

YLVA VAN BUUREN
FOR METRO

No matter how old you are, saving for your retirement has never been more important — and contributing to a Registered Retirement Savings Plan (RRSP) is one way to do that. The deadline for contributing and using it on your 2011 income tax return is Feb. 29.

Here are nine reasons why you shouldn't skip on investing in an RRSP this year.

1 The immediate tax deduction. Your total income is reduced by the amount you invest in your RRSP, says David Gillan, vice-president of T.E. Wealth,

2 Lower tax bill. Many Canadians work out their tax situation, says Gillan, and put in just enough to make sure they are not paying any taxes.

3 The "piggy bank" factor. An RRSP is a great savings plan.

4 Fewer employer-sponsored pension plans. "Today, less than 40 per cent of the population is covered with a pension," says Bev Moir, senior wealth adviser at Scotia McLeod.

5 Long-term growth potential. Despite the current stagnant investment market, experts say growth is going to return. "The earlier you start, the better because there's more time for growth and compounding," says Moir.

6 Tax-free growth. Money in your RRSP grows without attracting any tax through its accumulation, explains Richard McKenster, past chair of the Institute for Advanced Financial Education and a spokesperson for Advocis, Halifax.

7 Improve your whole financial picture. Building your RRSP is about direction and growth, says McKenster. "Make no mistake, there's no downside to putting some money aside."

8 A longer retirement. If you plan to retire at 55 or 60, you may have a 30-year retirement as people in general are living longer. Your retirement savings have to last you a lot longer.

9 Peace of mind. For many Canadians, the Canada Pension Plan and Old Age Security will not be enough for retirement. Add high divorce rates, a less stable job market and possible changes to the eligibility age of Old Age Security, says Moir, "and you really can't count on anybody but yourself."

Annual limits

If you don't use up your contribution limit in any one year, the unused contribution room is carried forward. So you can always catch up. Next year you will be able to contribute your annual contribution amount plus what you didn't contribute this year.

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Investment poll

A recent Scotiabank investment poll showed that 52 per cent of Canadians aged 35-54 plan to contribute to their RRSP for the 2011 tax year compared to 41 per cent in the 18-34 age category and 21 per cent in the 55 and older age category.

Divorce and the division of RRSPs

SMART INVESTING

TALBOT BOGGS

Regrettably, divorce is becoming an all too commonplace event in Canadian society.

Statistics Canada reports that more than 100,000 individuals a year go through divorce and 43 per cent of marriages are expected to end in divorce before they reach their 50th anniversary.

A similarly sad reality accompanying the divorce rate is that few Canadians appreciate the impact divorce can have on their finances and planning for retirement, a BMO Financial Group study has found.

The study showed that married adults who became divorced or widowed between the ages of 67 and 80 were projected to have the largest decrease in wealth and the largest increase in poverty, experiencing a decline in median income of as much as 37 per cent.

"Divorce is a big change in life, and as in all big life changes, people need to talk to a qualified financial planner to see what the implications are before making any decisions," advises Sara Kinnear, director of advanced financial planning with Investors Group.

"Whereas before the divorce you might have been planning for retirement together, now you may be on your own, solely responsible for making sure you have enough income to retire on," Kinnear says.

GOODSHOOT/THINKSTOCK

Financial experts recommend that before you divide up your assets, find out what the tax implications are.

You may find that you can achieve what you want while avoiding or minimizing taxes.

One of the most common questions Kinnear gets from clients going through divorce is about RRSPs.

In case of separation or divorce, either you or your spouse can transfer existing RRSPs to the other without being subject to tax, provided you are living apart when property and assets are settled and provided you have a written separation agreement or a court order.

A couple's RRSPs often are split between partners during a divorce, but a lot of what happens will depend on the terms of the settlement.

Attribution rules (tax rules to prevent excess income splitting) regarding spousal RRSP and RRIF (registered retirement income fund) withdrawals will not apply to any withdrawals made after you and your spouse have begun to live separately and apart as a result of a breakdown in the relationship.

While income tax rules apply equally to common-law partners and married partners, rules about family property typically don't apply to common-law partners, although they do in some jurisdictions, Kinnear notes.

Jackie Read, a financial adviser with Edward Jones, believes many women come out of divorce more financially-challenged than men because they have not been as involved in financial matters as their spouses.

"A lot of divorcees may not even have a budget and may never have handled money or investments or paid the bills because their husbands did all that," Read says.

Read suggests people coming out of a divorce set up a budget, review all expenses and start to build their own retirement plan, which should include contributing to an RRSP.

THE CANADIAN PRESS
TALBOT BOGGS IS A TORONTO-BASED BUSINESS COMMUNICATIONS PROFESSIONAL WHO HAS WORKED WITH NATIONAL NEWS ORGANIZATIONS, MAGAZINES AND CORPORATIONS IN THE FINANCE, RETAIL, MANUFACTURING AND OTHER INDUSTRIAL SECTORS.

Using an RRSP to invest in a business

JANE DOUCET
FOR METRO

If you are wondering whether it's possible to use your RRSP to invest in a Canadian-controlled private corporation (CCPC), the short answer is yes — but there are plenty of restrictions to consider on who qualifies.

"There are a lot of details to consider for the worthiness of using cash within your RRSP to buy the shares of a privately held company," says Teresa Black Hughes, a certified financial planner at Rogers Group Financial in Vancouver. "In the end, it may be more of a headache than it's worth."

If you, together with anyone related to you, own 10 per cent or more of the shares of the CCPC, the investment may not be a qualifying RRSP asset.

If you deal at arm's length with the CCPC and the cost of the shares you hold in the CCPC or a related corporation is less than $25,000, you can invest your RRSP in shares of the company.

If you own less than 10 per cent of the shares, there are generally no restrictions on the amount you can invest.

In determining the amount and cost of the shares that you own, you have to consider shares owned by individuals related to you, both inside and outside their RRSPs. Also, all of almost all of the company's assets must be business assets at the time the shares are purchased by your RRSP.

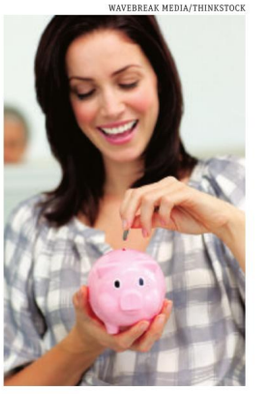
If as a contributing member to the company you plan to develop the value of the company with a direct effect on the shares, the future taxable sum for redemption might be more onerous than having grown the value outside of an RRSP, where the potential sale of shares will only be partially taxable due to capital gains treatment.

"In addition, any distributions flowed out of the shares can be treated more favourably with the dividend tax credit," says Black Hughes.

If all of that sounds too confusing and complicated, there's another more straightforward option.

"Borrowing money to invest in a business is tax deductible," says Black Hughes. "It's a much cleaner way to invest and repay in the future."

WAVEBREAK MEDIA/THINKSTOCK



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Savings are meant for your retirement

YLVA VAN BUUREN
FOR METRO

Experts weigh in about whether removing money from your RRSP early is ever the right move. The whole purpose of RRSPs is to have tax-free growth up until the age of 71, explains David Gillan, vice-president of T.E. Wealth.

But financial difficulty such as a bankruptcy or a terminal illness may cause you to look at pulling money out of your RRSPs.

There are costs for early withdrawal including a withholding tax of 10 to 15 per cent. Plus, the amount is added to your income so it may create more tax. Also, when money is deregistered it is not allowed to be put back in.

Two government programs — the Home Buyers' Plan and the Lifelong Learning Plan — allow you to withdraw money from your RRSP and not pay interest on the money or pay withdrawal fees. But you have to pay the money back.

Bev Moir, senior wealth adviser at Scotia McLeod, encourages people not to take money out of their RRSP for any reason.

"An RRSP is there for long-term retirement savings, and I think that you should try to protect that goal as much as possible."

Richard McKenster, past chair of the Institute for Advanced Financial Education and a spokesperson for Advocis, Halifax, adds that a good financial plan should include insurance in case of critical illness.

On the other hand, there may be an opportunity to grow your money differently. "If you have money in an RRSP and you're buying your first home, that's an opportunity," says McKenster. "If you've lost your job, you might look at temporarily drawing some income from the RRSPs. Or maybe there's an opportunity to invest in a business that could provide a better return."

Today, there is value in looking depending on the situation and your risk profile, says McKenster. But be sure to have a financial planner help determine the best and most tax-effective withdrawal.

Need money now?

The tax-free savings account is a flexible, tax-sheltered savings opportunity that provides another vehicle to save money tax free. But it's also another bucket that if people need money for some of these contingencies, they can tap into that, says Moir. The annual contribution limit is $5,000 and while there's no tax deduction for contributions, the account allows tax sheltered gains and tax is not payable on withdrawal.

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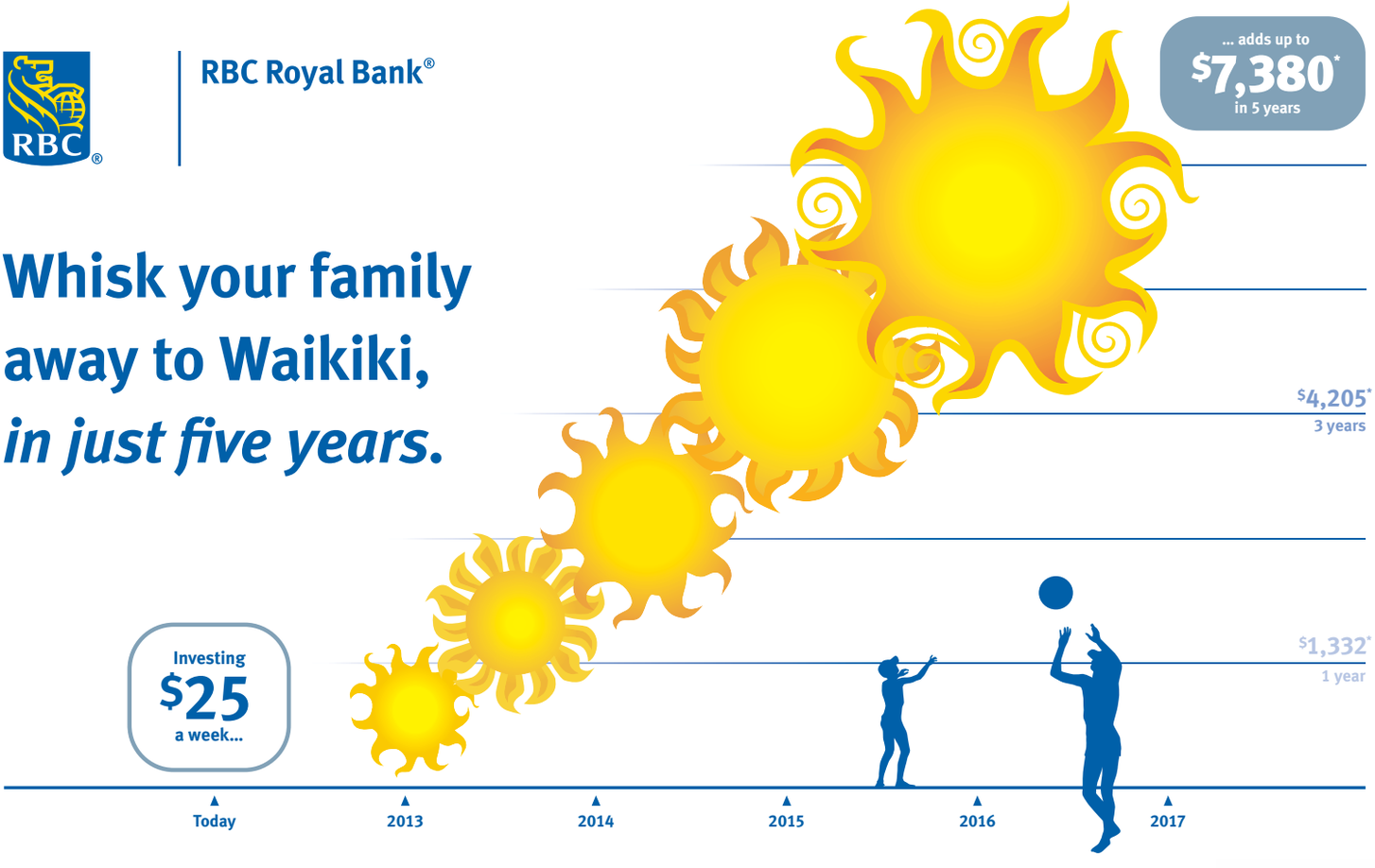

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Interview with the writer

Anne Rice built a career writing about vampires way before Edward and Bella ever set eyes on each other In her latest work, she moves into werewolf territory

MEREDITH ENGEL
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METRO WORLD NEWS IN NEW YORK

The Wolf Gift, the newest novel from Anne Rice, the queen of supernatural stories (remember Interview with a Vampire?), hits shelves today. We spoke with the author about her influences, characters and her thoughts on the future of book publishing.

You were raised in a very strict Catholic upbringing. What influence did that have on you and your writing?
I think it influenced everything. I grew up in the '40s and '50s in New Orleans, which is a Catholic city. I was in a Catholic parish, going to a Catholic school, in a world where everybody went to a Catholic school, and we had beautiful churches all over New Orleans, and all of that ended up influencing my work tremendously. I had lots of church, of course, before I wrote Interview with the Vampire, but Interview with the Vampire was a lot of that, grieving for that, grieving for that lost sense of being involved in a meaningful community. It's kind of natural, I think, for someone who grew up like that to write about European-American characters, like Louis was a French plantation owner living in Louisiana.

Did your background influence The Wolf Gift?
I think it's a synthesis of where I've just been and what I've gone back to. For 12 years, I attempted to be a Christian again — I went back to the church and for 12 years I really lived it, breathed it, wrote two books about Jesus that provided me with one of the greatest experiences in my career. And I've left that, I've publically left religion, and I'm back again with the classic monsters of horror, but I think the work is really synthesizing. It's really pulling together a lot of what I've learned during those Christian years and it feels to me different from the older vampire novels. First of all, it's very contemporary: Reuben is young and living in San Francisco right now and I had confidence to present him in this contemporary world that I kind of lacked years ago.

GETTY IMAGES

Anne Rice

I heard you got the idea for this book from the producer of the TV show White Collar.
That is true. I emailed Jeff Eastin because I'm a big fan of the show. I just think it's one of the most fresh and clever shows on TV. We have an email friendship going and he said something about it in an email. He said that he'd watched a documentary on werewolves and something about if I ever wanted to do a werewolf novel, he would buy buckets of it, and it was just a casual thing and I got to thinking, Wow. Most of the time when people mention werewolves, I would always say: "No, I'm not going to do that. My sister's done that and I don't want to crowd her." Then I got to thinking, "Well, Alice has been gone since 2007, I miss her terribly, but maybe it's OK now, five years later, to write about werewolves. Maybe it's alright; I wouldn't encroach on anything she's done."

And I read that you based the main character of this book on the star of White Collar, Matt Bomer. Have you ever met him?
Nope.

Does he know he's inspired a character in your book?
I don't know. I should send him a copy! Jeff knows; he's read The Wolf Gift. I just acknowledge Matt as the physical model. You know, Matt's voice, Matt's eyes.

He is a beautiful man.
Well, yeah, he is. You know, I didn't even plan it. I just kept seeing and hearing Reuben as Matt Bomer. If they were to make a movie and Matt Bomer were to step into that role, I would be absolutely thrilled.

Matt Bomer

2 scene

Scene in brief

Adele's songs about breakups and heartache have made her a multi-Grammy award winner, but she insists she's done with all that. In an interview featured in the March issue of Vogue magazine, the 23-year-old says people think she's "miserable" because of her songs. In fact, the singer vows to "never" write a breakup record again and adds she's "done being a bitter witch."
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Angelina Jolie says she hopes directorial debut on Bosnian war will provoke discussion on rape

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DVD reviews

Buy it | Rent it | Borrow it | Yawn | Don't bother

The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn — Part 1

Genre: Drama
Director: Bill Condon
Stars: Kristen Stewart, Robert Pattinson, Taylor Lautner

There are more bubbles than blood as Bella Swan finally gets her (dead) man in part one of Breaking Dawn, the conclusion of the Twilight teen vampire franchise.

Melodrama reigns in this supernatural soap opera, even though Stephanie Meyer's tale takes a sharp turn toward the violently weird.

After three films in which Bella Swan (Kristen Stewart) and her vampire beau Edward Cullen (Robert Pattinson) exchanged smouldering looks, they finally get on the good foot to do the bad thing, which not only literally wrecks the marital bed, but results in a monstrous pregnancy that could kill the human (for now) Bella.

Director Bill Condon (a Twilight newbie) and returning screenwriter Melissa Rosenberg don't stray much from Meyer's source text or tamper with a profitable romance that is now more cash cow than Cupid. There's not much they can do about a story that has grown steadily more risible.

With talk of unplanned pregnancy, abortion and marital discord entering the picture, Twilight is now really an "R" picture under a "PG" label, and it's an uncomfortable fit.

I have just one question for Twihards before next year's Part 2: Does Dracula offer daycare services?

Extras include a director's commentary and making-of featurettes.

PETER HOWELL

The Rum Diary

Genre: Comedy
Director: Bruce Robinson
Stars: Johnny Depp, Giovanni Ribisi, Aaron Eckhart

Johnny Depp's the sole reason to toast The Rum Diary, a movie based on a semi-autobiographical Hunter S. Thompson novel that even Thompson had forgotten about. Depp discovered it around 1998, when he first portrayed the man (and legend) in Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas.

Written and directed by the mercurial Bruce Robinson, the film is set in 1960 in San Juan, Puerto Rico. Paul Kemp (Depp) is looking for employment at the San Juan Star. He gets the gig, along with a warning to lay off the booze and avoid antagonizing advertisers. The rookie reporter, not yet the jaded journalist, soon finds himself embroiled in controversy.

There's not much plot in this patchy script. Depp does very well, but as talented and watchable as he is, even he can't completely save the swizzling stickiness of The Rum Diary.

Extras include making-of featurettes.

PETER HOWELL

Take Shelter

Genre: Drama
Director: Jeff Nichols
Stars: Michael Shannon, Jessica Chastain, Shea Whigham

Something very bad is coming ... or is it? Michael Shannon expertly tightropes prophet and madman in this Twilight Zone-ish chiller, the impressive sophomore feature by Shotgun Stories' Jeff Nichols.

The equally talented Jessica Chastain co-stars as the wife torn by thoughts that her husband is either completely insane or horrifically prescient.

Extras include a commentary by Shannon and Nichols plus a making-of featurette.

PETER HOWELL

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Florence: angel and demon

You know her as the ethereal performer with the otherworldly voice and collection of pretty, floaty dresses But underneath she's a girl who could party circles around you

KENYA HUNT
SCENE@METRONEWS.CA
METRO WORLD NEWS IN LONDON

NICK CUNARD

▶ Florence Welch rose to international fame with her band's hit Dog Days are Over when she was barely more than 20 years old.

Once, during the haze that has been Florence Welch's never-ending touring life, she had an especially wild after-party. She can't remember when it occurred exactly or what went down during.

"But I remember afterward. I lost a tooth! Well, I chipped it. But I don't know how! There was a party. And there was a bill. I accidentally set fire to the hotel room with a tea light. And all I know is that the bar bill from the hotel was more expensive than the fire bill," she says, a twinge of disbelief still colouring her voice.

"That was the most extreme hangover I've ever had. Try imagining those calls in the morning."

Florence — she of the critically adored, monstrously successful Florence and the Machine albums Lungs and Ceremonials — is only 25. But she has the war stories of an aging rock star. And in certain ways, she comes off like one, too — more 1960s Rolling Stones than Adele. It's a mesmerizing wildness that you don't see with groomed pop idols anymore.

And yet Florence's joie de vivre coexists with a kind of well-worn pragmatism that comes with the weight of life and responsibility.

"I ended up deciding to drink less while I was touring," she says. "It was for my voice. It's really hard to sing and keep up the pace that we were going at. It's OK for the first bits when you don't know where you're going. But now that I have more of an idea of the longevity of it, I'd like to have a career like PJ Harvey or Björk who are still producing albums and have these voices. I realized if I wanted to have a career like theirs, I'd have to temper my indulgences."

The vintage rocker side of Welch comes, in part, from her dad, who made his career in advertising but tried his hand at music when he was young.

"There was a party. And there was a bill. I accidentally set fire to the hotel room with a tea light. And all I know is that the bar bill from the hotel was more expensive than the fire bill."
WELCH

He introduced little Florence to bands like Velvet Underground and Love and it paid off.

He got to live vicariously through his daughter when he drove her band's van around Europe during their first tour. (Florence's siblings and step-family, whom she's really close to, often accompany her on the road and her sister works as her PA.) "We definitely didn't have to tone things down when he was around," she says.

Then there was her round of toasts with Beyoncé backstage at the Isle of Wight festival. Not quite a bender, but a memorable party moment for Florence nonetheless.

"I was on just before Jay-Z and she passed me and went, 'Ah!' And I went, 'Ah!' And she was like, 'It's such an honour to meet you!' And I was like, 'Oh my gosh, it's such an honour to meet you!' Then she, Kanye and I went cheers and it was so surreal," she says.

It's difficult to get to the heart of a person during a blind date interview, hastily arranged at a South London pub.

But seeing Florence light up when telling her stories, you get the sense that she's happiest when doing things and going places rather than sitting still. She looked especially vulnerable during a seated photo shoot, which seemed to visibly tax her.

After becoming a global success very quickly after Lungs, which went platinum many times over, Florence reportedly had a bout of depression. But today, she's not in the mood for self-examination. And she's not necessarily haunted by the demons and angels she sings about. "Though I do believe one can have them internally," she admits. And she could care less whether her glass is half empty or full: "I'd rather drink the glass and figure it out."

GET THE LOOK

THE WIND SWEPT HAIR

- Erdem floral print silk head band **$140, net-a-porter.com**
- Bumble and Bumble Hair (Un)dressing Creme **$33, bumbleandbumble.com**

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- Chanel Le Vernis N.18 in Vamp **$25, chanel.com**
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ROMINA MCGUINNESS

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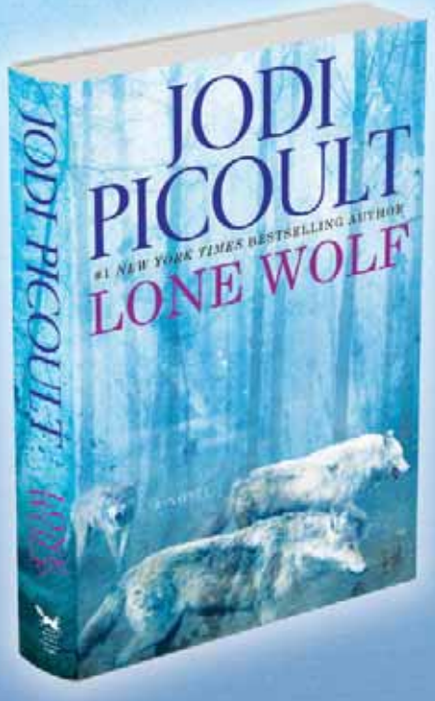
read them all?

"Picoult is a rare writer who delivers book after book...." —ENTERTAINMENT WEEKLY



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More on Whitney Houston's death

New info continues to be revealed about what caused the singer's untimely death at the age of 48

THE WORD

DOROTHY ROBINSON
SCENE@METRONEWS.CA

Though authorities are not confirming anything other than she was found in the bathtub, some websites are reporting that Whitney Houston died from an overdose of Xanax and liquor.

And according to TMZ.com, coroner's officials informed the family that there was not enough water in Whitney's lungs for a drowning, as was initially assumed.

GETTY IMAGES

▶ Whitney Houston (1963–2012)

Officials believe she passed away before her head became submerged in water, though the official toxicology report won't be complete for four to six weeks.

Although earlier reports say that her stylist, hairdresser and two bodyguards were among the ones who found Houston underwater, reports now say it was her aunt Mary Jones who discovered Houston's body.

TMZ.com says Houston had apparently been in the bathroom for more than an hour when Jones went in to check on her. Upon seeing Houston, Jones pulled the singer out of the tub and started CPR.

RadarOnline.com reports that her body was probably under water for 30 minutes and the autopsy shows that her body had no "obvious signs of trauma, but her throat appeared to be inflamed upon examination."

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Katy's new song is full of rage

Katy Perry debuted a new, venom-filled breakup song, Part of Me, at the Grammys this weekend, and viewers couldn't help assuming the song's biting lyrics were directed at soon-to-be ex-husband Russell Brand.

"You chewed me up and spit me out, like I was poison in your mouth. You took my light, you drained me down, you ripped me off, your love was cheap," Perry sang.

Perry even altered some of the songs original lyrics to fit her current situation, changing, "You can keep the dog from me, I never liked him anyway" to, "Keep your diamond ring. In fact, you can keep everything except for me." METRO

"You chewed me up and spit me out, like I was poison in your mouth."

LYRICS FROM KATY PERRY'S PART OF ME

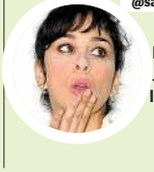
▶ Katy Perry

Celebrity tweets

@kanyewest
Pardon me... do you have any crepe chiffon?

@rustyrockets
The intuitive mind is a gift and the rational mind a servant. We have created a society that honors the servant and has forgotten the gift.

@MarleeMatlin
Before I forget, Happy Valentine's Day. I'll be half a world away but thinking about you. Support the freedom to love and live peacefully.


@sarahksilverman
I just read John: 3:16. It's dumb!

▶ Adele

Adele has a new man

Not only were the Grammy Awards a big night trophy-wise for Adele, but it was also a chance for the British singer to make her first official appearance with boyfriend Simon Konecki, according to Us Weekly.

Konecki was by Adele's side in the front row of the Staples Center as she won in all six categories in which she was nominated. METRO

Jackson takes it to Obama

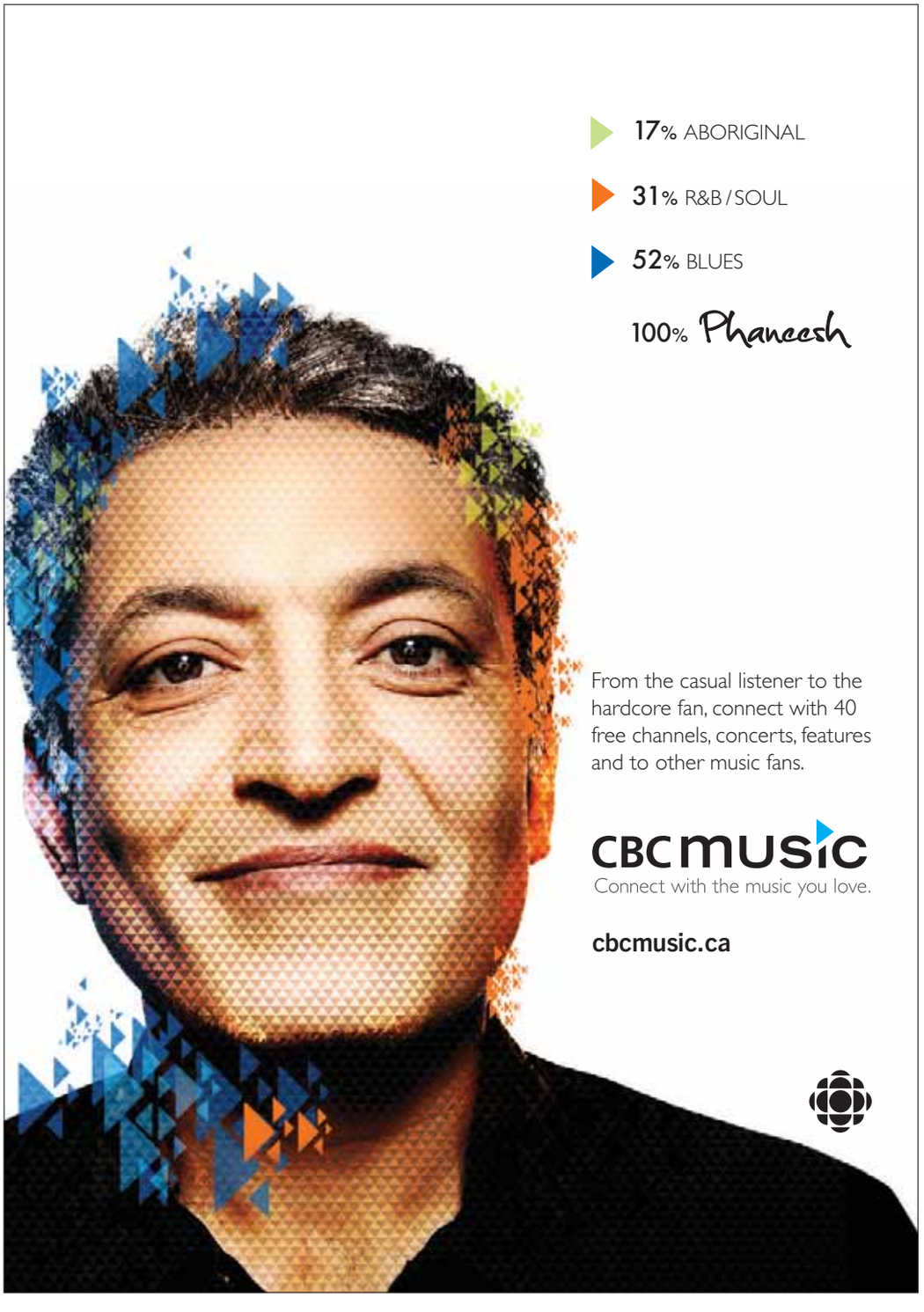
ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

▶ Barack Obama

Samuel L. Jackson's decision to support Barack Obama in 2008 was due to the president's race, the actor tells Ebony magazine.

"I voted for Barack because he was black. Because that's why other folks vote for other people — because they look like them," Jackson says. "That's American politics, pure and simple. [Obama's] message didn't mean s— to me. In the end, he's a politician. I just hoped he would do some of what he said he was gonna do." METRO

▶ Samuel L. Jackson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Truly, madly, deeply: Why do we get jealous?

Valentine's Day isn't all about being madly in love Dr. David Buss, relationship expert and author of The Dangerous Passion: Why Jealousy is as Necessary as Love and Sex, explains the science behind the 'j' word

ROMINA McGUINNESS
LIFE@METRONEWS.CA
METRO WORLD NEWS IN LONDON

ISTOCK PHOTO

▶ This won't end well.

Do you ever feel protective of your relationship — as if someone else is out to get your man (or woman)?

You may be overly cautious. Or you may just be reacting normally. Mate poachers exist. And Dr. David Buss, author of The Dangerous Passion, says we've psychological adapted to defend ourselves against such threats.

First, is your partner your equal?

Determine their mate value: how desirable is this person on the mating market? Think about anything from looks to social status.

When a couple pairs up they tend to have approximately similar mating values but discrepancies do develop over time.

"If one gets a big promotion at work, they could increase their mate value by virtue of the position. The lower mate value person tends to be most jealous as statistically, it's more likely for the higher mate value person either having an affair or terminating the relationship," says Buss.

Then, identify the nature of the threat

According to Buss, men and women are equally jealous but differ in the nature of their emotion.

"For a man the sexual aspect of an infidelity poses a threat as it casts a doubt over their paternity certainty," he said. "Men place a greater premium on physical attractiveness in potential mates so when women see their man in a sexually charged interaction with a physically more attractive woman, that can drive a women crazy."

Take action

"Women enhance their physical appearance as a mate protection tactic whereas men redouble their efforts to fulfill their partners' desires," he said. "Men are more physically reactive and more likely to get drunk or commit crimes of passion."

Jealousy as a symbol of love and commitment

No one wants to be with someone no one else wants. Stick to your mate value equal and hopefully you can avoid a Basic Instinct 3.

THE MOST OUTRAGEOUS JEALOUSY CASES

AMERICAN FOOTBALL STAR OJ SIMPSON

▶ Although found 'not guilty,' Simpson was suspected of murdering his ex-wife Nicole Brown.

NASA ASTRONAUT LISA MARIE NOWAK

▶ After a 950-mile, 12 hour journey (wearing an adult nappy to avoid bathroom breaks), Nowak confronted love rival Colleen Shipman armed with a BB gun and pepper spray.

A new study shows

30

...minutes of sex can burn off more than 80 calories. Surely it's the best consequence of fighting with your lover. Say yes to make-up sex. AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF SEXUALITY EDUCATORS

V-day tips

- Buy her a card, you don't have to be a poet to be a great lover
- Indulge in 20 minutes or more of foreplay instead of jumping straight to sex. Start with a foot massage and move up the body

JOHN GRAY, AUTHOR OF 'MEN ARE FROM MARS, WOMEN ARE FROM VENUS, MARSVENUS.COM

WHO says leprosy still around after being declared eliminated from the Western Pacific region

Best Health Minute

BONNIE MUNDAY, EDITOR-IN-CHIEF, BEST HEALTH MAGAZINE

Sleep remedies: What Works?

The experts interviewed for Michelle Villet's article on sleep remedies recommend seeing your doctor if sleep problems last two weeks. But for occasional sleeplessness, there are plenty of drugstore remedy options.

Always be sure to follow package directions carefully and heed any warnings.

Antihistamine-based remedies (Rexall Extra Strength Sleep Aid Liquid Fastgels, Advil Nighttime, Insomnal, Nytol, Sleepeze D Extra Strength, Tylenol Simply Sleep): The active ingredient in these is diphenhydramine hydrochloride, an antihistamine with sedative properties that directs receptors in the brain to relax.

Melatonin-based remedies (Jamieson Melatonin-3; Genuine Health Sleep+Time Release, Nature's Harmony Timed Release Melatonin, Webber Naturals Melatonin): Melatonin is a hormone secreted by the pineal gland. It helps regulate the body's sleep-wake cycle; normally, melatonin levels rise in the evening to help us fall asleep, and then they drop off in the morning.

Herbal and mineral remedies: Some use a form of magnesium (New Nordic Melissa and Can-Prev Magnesium Bis-Glycinate 200), a mineral involved in more than 2,000 chemical reactions in the body, many of them related to sleep and relaxation. Other remedies use 5-HTP (FemMed Sleep), an amino acid that helps restore serotonin, a neurotransmitter that regulates sleep. Then there is valerian (Swiss Natural Sources Valerian), which is a herbal extract that targets the same receptors in the brain as certain prescription meds but without the addictive properties or memory loss.

Again, always read labels carefully, and always talk to your doctor about any concerns you have.

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A new study finds that women more likely give birth around Valentine's Day Not so much on Halloween

CELIA MILNE
LIFE@METRONEWS.CA

ISTOCK PHOTOS

▶ Halloween, on the other hand, is a scary time to give birth. When Levy and her team studied 1,809,304 births around the Halloween, they found a 5.3 per cent decrease in spontaneous births and a 16.9 per cent decrease in cesarean births on Oct. 31.

Valentine's Day is seen as a good birth-day.

It's all about love, after all. A study conducted a Yale University has found that pregnant women whose babies are due in the two-week period surrounding Valentine's Day seem to aim for, and succeed in, giving birth Feb. 14.

Perhaps it's mind over matter.

"The women in our study were significantly more likely to give birth on Valentine's Day than on the other days we studied," says Becca Levy, an associate professor of epidemiology and psychology at Yale.

"Their will to give birth could influence the hormones that control birth timing."

Levy and her colleagues looked at birth records for 1,676,217 births in the U.S. that occurred within one week on either side of Valentine's Day, over an 11-year period. They found that on Feb. 14 there was a 3.6 per cent increase in spontaneous births, and a 12.1 per cent increase in cesarean births.

"We think the reason for this is that Valentine's Day has many positive associations in our culture, such as love," Levy told Metro.

"We don't yet know the mechanism for this holiday-birth timing association, but we think that it is possible that women are able to initiate birth a little earlier so that birth coincides with Valentine's Day."

The study was published in the journal Social Science & Medicine.

Chocolate

Chocolate continues to get a health check mark.

▶ **Healthy** Researchers in the U.K. reviewed 42 studies of chocolate in the medical literature, and found it consistently aids in blood flow and insulin resistance. Good news on Valentine's Day.

Thoughts on ... Choice

OPTIONS. Others bring you the opportunity to experience thoughts and emotions, to act or react, but you are the one who chooses, not them. What are you choosing right now? Is this the energy you want to use to create your experiences today? If not, shift your focus right now by picking a thought that is more in line with what you want to experience.

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X-Rated Kiss Cocktail

Preparation:

1. Divide raspberry liqueur between 2 martini glasses.
2. In cocktail shaker filled with ice, combine lime juice, X-Rated, gin and pink peppercorns. Shake then strain and divide between glasses, pouring carefully down sides of glasses. Garnish with edible flower petals. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS/ ADAPTED BY EMILY RICHARDS (PROFESSIONAL HOME ECONOMIST, COOKBOOK AUTHOR, TV CELEBRITY CHEF. FOR MORE, VISIT EMILYRICHARDSCOOK.CA.**

Ingredients:

- 60 ml (2 oz) raspberry liqueur
- Ice
- 90 ml (3 oz) X-Rated Fusion Liqueur
- 30 ml (1 oz) gin
- 30 ml (1 oz) lime juice
- Pinch of crushed pink peppercorns
- Edible flower petals

Piola: For the love of pasta

Head to this spot for delicious three-course lunch that'll only cost you $15

LUNCH RUSH

STEPHANIE DICKISON
FOOD@METRONEWS.CA

When's the last time you had superb Italian — the kind that you're still thinking about hours later? And for a price you can actually afford? Piola is just that kind of place.

The slick, yet spacious room is swathed in blonde wood and accented with candy-coloured light fixtures. And with Piola's three-course lunch ($15), available weekdays, you can afford to eat out at a nice restaurant for once.

A warm salad of cannellini and borlotti beans studded with pancetta, onions and croutons mixed with a secret sauce may be a peasant dish. But at Piola it's elegant and refined.

Between the toothsome Spaghetti — tossed with a fresh tomato sauce, a chiffonade of basil and fior di latte mozzarella — and gossamer-thin Pizzas, you don't have to feel too guilty about carbs here, even though portions are sizable.

Piola
1165 Queen St. W. (near Dufferin)
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piola.it
Social lunch: Yes
Reservations: Yes
Licensed: Yes
Rating: 4.5 out of 5

STEPHANIE DICKISON

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Spread Red Velvet love

DINNER EXPRESS

EMILY RICHARDS
FOOD@METRONEWS.CA

To make these treats a bit different you can pour the batter into prebaked mini tartlet shells and bake for a cupcake tart.

Preparation:

1. In bowl, whisk flour, sugar, cocoa powder, baking powder and soda.
2. In another bowl, whisk buttermilk, melted butter, egg, food colouring and vanilla. Pour over flour mix and whisk until smooth.
3. Divide batter among paper-lined mini muffin tin and bake in 350 F (180 C) oven for about 15 minutes or until tester comes out clean. Remove from pan and let cool completely on rack. Top with whipped cream and serve. **EMILY RICHARDS IS A PROFESSIONAL HOME ECONOMIST, COOKBOOK AUTHOR AND CELEBRITY TV CHEF. VISIT EMILYRICHARDSCOOKS.CA.**

EMILY RICHARDS

This recipe makes 24 cupcakes.

Ingredients:

- 1 1/4 cups (300 mL) sifted cake and pastry flour
- 2/3 cup (150 mL) granulated sugar
- 1 tbsp (15 mL) unsweetened cocoa powder
- 1/2 tsp (2 mL) each baking powder and baking soda
- 1/2 cup (125 mL) buttermilk
- 1/4 cup (60 mL) butter
- 1 egg
- 1 tbsp (15 mL) red food colouring
- 1 tsp (5 mL) vanilla extract
- Whipped cream

EASY WAYS TO KEEP THE ROMANCE BURNING

WAVEBREAK MEDIA/THINKSTOCK

SURE, WE START WITH SEXUAL SIZZLE, BUT SOMETIMES IT JUST FIZZLES

Indeed, few couples can maintain the heightened rabbit-paced sex habits so rampant early on in a relationship, but some do manage to keep the romance burning.

What's the secret?

A combination of effort, awareness and novelty does the trick.

While a study published this month online in the Journal of Sex and Marital Therapy found that women ages 18 to 25 in monogamous relationships gradually lose sexual interest, don't fret — you don't have to let your below-the-belt desires shrivel.

The University of Guelph researchers behind the study, Sarah Murray and Robin Milhausen, suggest the end of the "honeymoon phase" could tie into waning female desire.

Thankfully, past studies have found that sex actually improves in committed relationships, compared to one-night stands.

"Long-term, people find sex with someone they love more satisfying," says Dr. Oren Amitay, registered psychologist and instructor at Ryerson University.

There is, however, a natural drop in sexual appetite as time passes.

"Very rarely are you going to have the same passion you had when you started," says Amitay.

"The reason it goes is familiarity. That's why novelty is so important. Basically, we become used to something, and naturally our physiological response decreases."

Other explanations may include built-up resentments and increased responsibilities.

For couples looking to restore bedroom bliss, small steps are advisable.

"Very few people will turn down a massage," offers Amitay.

"Then move onto a full-body massage. You can slowly introduce more and more."

Meanwhile, a visit to a reputable sex shop (most are housed with educated and approachable staffers) is a fun way to inspire discussion and keep things fresh. Consider buying an erotic video, book or new adult toy.

"A lot of people don't realize you have to work at it," says Amitay.

"Almost every couple has a decrease. You can't expect partners to be as passionate 20 years later, but you can re-ignite the passion."

– Tanya Enberg

SIZZLE STARTERS

- Waiting for the sexual magic to happen spontaneously can prove unsuccessful. Jot lovemaking down on the calendar if you need to, but be proactive
- Book a sitter and plan regular date nights
- A stress-free reprieve is the perfect way to reconnect emotionally and physically

SHARE THE BUZZ

CANADIAN-MADE WE-VIBE 3 REVOLUTIONARY, RECHARGEABLE AND BODY SAFE

Gone are the days of dark, cave-like sex shops where customers secretly slink in and quickly back out into the shadows.

Personal pleasure, once considered predominantly a man's sport, has gained prestige, popularity and social acceptance among many women, who are quick to share trade secrets among their girlfriends.

It may be this more open information exchange that has made the Canadian-made We-Vibe — a cleverly designed toy created to amp up the pleasure of couples' play — the number one selling couples' toy among playful pairs around the globe.

It has a revolutionary shape, which simultaneously stimulates the G-spot and clitoris, and a unique benefit that appeals to both genders (worn while making love).

The We-Vibe, launched in 2008, continues to stretch the limits of our bedroom romps beyond the commonplace phallic fare typically available.

The We-Vibe 3, the latest version of this environmentally friendly find (it's rechargeable and body safe, made with medical-grade silicone and 100 per cent lead free), is touted as the most powerful to date with 40 per cent more rev.

Added bonus(es) — it comes with a wireless remote control to switch between the six vibration modes (for all kinds of imaginative fun) and it's completely waterproof!

Also making orgasmic waves are the company's three super-powerful, yet highly-compact offerings: The Touch (a hand-held personal massager); the lipstick-shaped Tango, and the Salsa, a classic mini vibrator.

For more product info, visit we-vibe.com ... then go ahead and share the buzz with your pals.

– Tanya Enberg

THINK BEFORE YOU SEXT

KNOW WHERE TO DRAW THE LINE, EXPERT SAYS

You're feeling flirty and want to send your significant other a naughty text or photo, but is it really such a good idea?

The instant you hit the send button, your saucy decision will enter into the realm of technology where it, like so many horror stories before, could come back to haunt you.

Think before you sext — that is the message.

Although stripping down emails, texts and Facebook posts to sentences bordering on virginal is not always necessary, knowing where to draw the line is, warns Dr. Oren Amitay, a registered psychologist and Ryerson University instructor.

A good rule of thumb, he says, is avoiding images you wouldn't want a family member, colleague or employer to see.

"Send something more tasteful," he advises.

"Something that captures you having fun but not in an embarrassing situation."

Surprisingly, sexting is not just a pastime of teens. According to a Pew Research Center poll, 5 per cent of U.S. adults ages 30 to 49 admit to having sent a nude or semi-nude image to someone, and 17 per cent have been on the receiving end of such sexually explicit photos.

Certainly, the thrilling temptation of sexting cannot be denied, and there are some arousing benefits that can come along with sharing a teasing note or photograph with your mate.

"There's something to be said for it, but you don't want to go too far," says Amitay.

"You may actually turn someone off."

It's important to have a relationship built solidly on trust before toying with the idea of indulging in a titillating message swap. If you do, the payoff can amount to a seriously potent kind of foreplay.

"It keeps the relationship spicy," Amitay says.

"Sexting can help re-ignite the passion because it's taking a risk — as long as it's done carefully."

– Tanya Enberg

HEMERA/THINKSTOCK

HIGH-TECH FLIRTING TIPS AND TRICKS

- Keep messages flirty
- Remember sexy doesn't mean pornographic. Once a photo is in cyberspace, you can't get it back
- Before sending, double check it's going to the correct person
- Before posting something questionable on a relatively public site such as Facebook, consider how it could impact your reputation and career
- Never send personal information or erotic material of any kind to strangers

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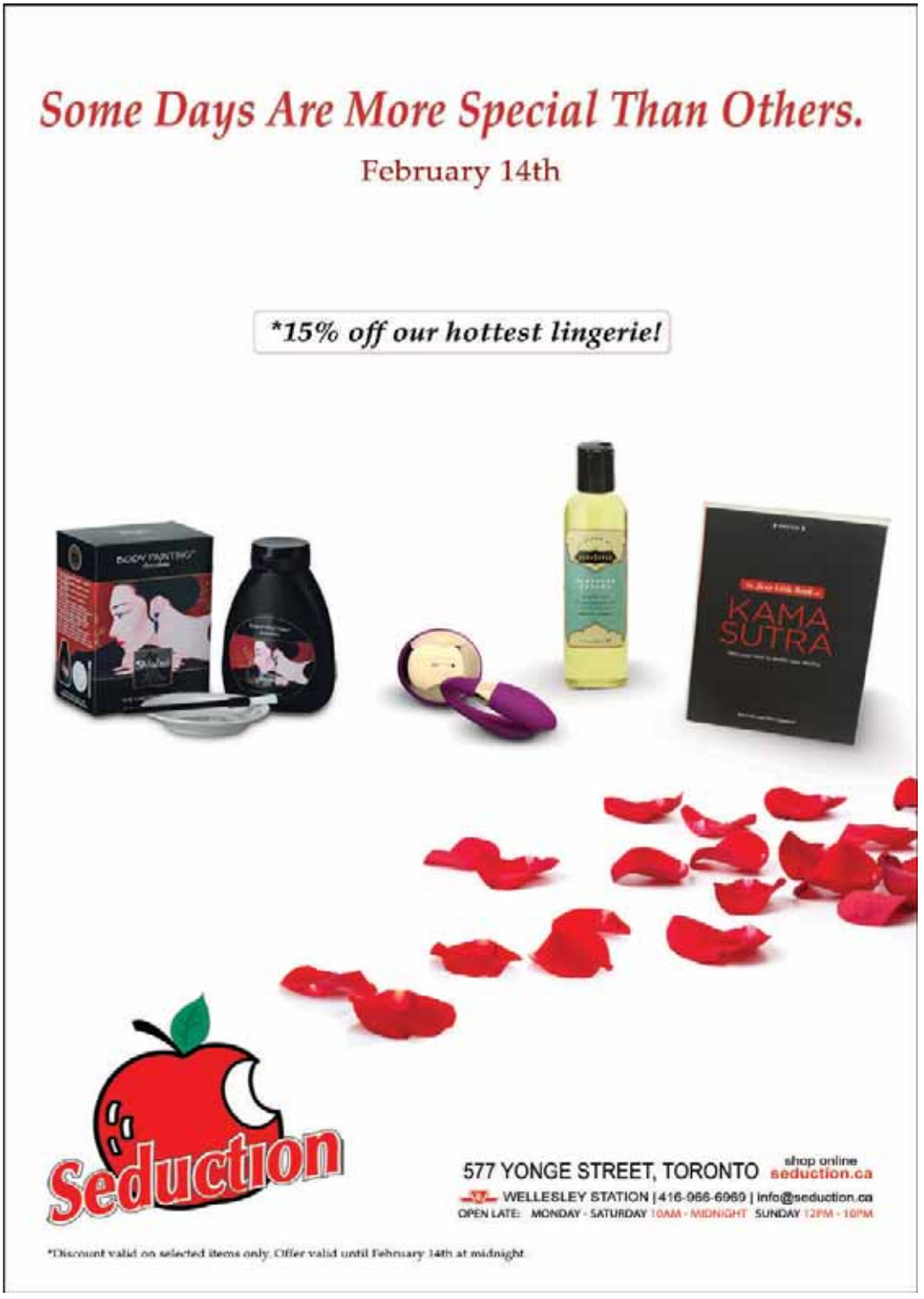
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We wanted to know a little about *flirting* and *love* from our Metropolitans, this is what they had to say:

How important is it to find and/or keep love in 2012?

Important 28%
Neither important or unimportant 17%
Unimportant 5%
Very Unimportant 4%

ONLINE DATING

34% have tried it
29% have never tried online dating, but would give it a shot

38% of Metropolitans do all the flirting...

While 62% stand back and wait to be flirted with!

Where's the best place to flirt?

At a Party 25%

• Pub 13% • Work 11%
• Online 7% • Grocery Store 6%
• Nightclub 6% • School 5%
• Mall 3% • Gym 2%

When flirting, how forward are you?

19% Subtle like a ninja!
4% Forward. Bull in a china shop.
35% A little bit of both

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Source: Metropolitan Panel Survey; 352 Respondents; January 2012

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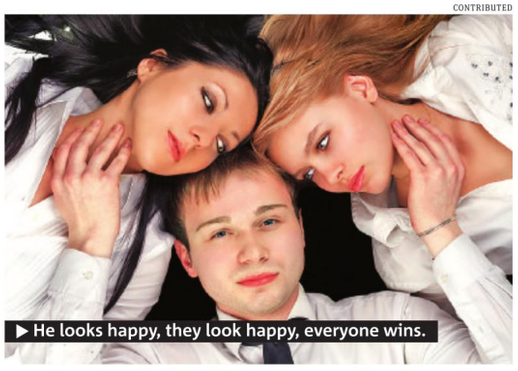

▶ He looks happy, they look happy, everyone wins.

Happy to be single

CHIARA ATIK
LIFE@METRONEWS.CA

Of course, we all want to find that special someone someday ... but here are four reasons to be happy that someday is not today.

1 The opportunity to check out all those "what-ifs"
A random person you meet at a party, an acquaintance you've had a crush on forever, maybe even a co-worker: when you're single, you can pursue these "what-ifs" and see where they lead.

More often than not, these little sparks of romance turn out to be nothing, but at least when you're single, the not knowing won't drive you crazy.

2 Not shaving...
your legs, your beard or any other part of your body.

Not shaving, and sparing those extra 15 minutes in the morning just because you don't feel like it, is the luxury of being single.

3 Wild nights! Wild nights!
It's pretty nice to be able to go out, and stay out, as long as you want without having to worry about whether your significant other is tired, or their feet hurt, or you said you'd call, or they have an early start in the morning, or hearing "you're so old!" in a faux-complaining voice and regretful smiles as you head out the door.

And if, at midnight, a friend calls and invites you to come out, you can just go. And if, at 2 a.m., you meet someone you like, you can just kiss them, or go home with them, or just get their number.

And if, at 4 a.m., you feel like getting a slice of pizza, or a whole pizza, you can, no problem. Who's going to care?

4 Not having to hang out with anyone else's friends
You have your own friends, and it's hard enough to find time to hang out with them.

Sort of nice not to have to spend a Friday night hanging out with someone else's friends, no?

'Like a piece of meat'

Metro's Liz Brown recently dropped in on an anti-Valentine's Day singles party

LIZ BROWN
LIFE@METRONEWS.CA

Ever wonder what would happen if you gathered all the people on an online dating site into the same room?

I never pondered the possibilities of such a situation until last Saturday night, when I attended an anti-Valentine's Day singles party at C-Lounge in Toronto, hosted by a company called Meet Market Adventures.

Being of the adventurous sort, willing to try anything once — and single myself, I thought it might be a good place to expand my potential dating circle. And while I met several guys, the event shared many similarities with online dating — as in, if you're female and attractive enough to go out in public, you're getting plenty of attention.

This isn't always a good thing.

When my friend and I arrived at the bar at about 10 p.m., it was already packed. Singles ranging from 25 to 45 mingled over hors d'oeuvres and packed the dance floor, bumping and grinding to Top 40 tunes. The pair of us, being more of the wallflower than life-of-the-party type, grabbed drinks and settled ourselves in a corner of the bar to take in the crowd. The male to female ratio seemed an ideal 50:50 split.

At the front of the room, the more social singles were jostling to enter a draw to win a trip to New York City and participate in a human scavenger hunt — a search for a member of the opposite sex who had come to the party with their ex.

Several women in the 30-to-40-year-old range wearing dresses joined us on the outer fringes, playing with their hair, and subtly swaying to the music, presumably hoping to be asked to dance. While some guys were bold and approached the women, others stood by in their dress pants and button shirts, surveying the room.

This surveying was a little more overt than typical of a regular bar.

Of course, the end game of such an event is to 'pick-up,' but it was slightly jarring to walk into a bar knowing that every man in the room knew with certainty your solo status — or perhaps not. One not-so-sharp fellow approached us and opened with "So, are you two ladies single?"

As we stood there, a bit too overwhelmed to mingle, a steady stream of potential suitors approached us with all manner of pick-up lines.

While we sipped our drinks and felt the burning stare of dozens of pairs of male eyes, my pal leaned over, "Do you feel like a piece of meat in this place?"

"Completely."

"Want to go somewhere else?"

"Definitely."

After just an hour of our Meet (or was it meat?) Market Adventure, we packed it in and headed to our favourite dive bar where we did shots and hit the dance floor, happy that our single status remained personal information.

Although the event had uncomfortable overtones for me, if you're feeling lonely and need to be reassured there are plenty of single people out there, it's not a bad place to spend a Saturday night.

Memorable opening lines of the night

- "Check out my tan. I bet I'm more tanned than you. I just got back from Mexico."
- "Don't go to the bar, you can have my drink." (A half sipped warm rum and coke).
- "I have a girlfriend right now, but it's ending soon."
- "What's your sign?"

For more info

- Meet Market Adventures hosts singles events in most major cities in Canada. For a list of upcoming events, visit Meetmarketadventures.com.

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WHAT TO BUY FOR A BAPTISM

Hello,
What is an appropriate gift for a child at a Christening if the child is a close family member?
Thanks J&R

CHARLES THE BUTLER

ASKCHARLESTHEBUTLER@METRONEWS.CA

FOR MORE, VISIT CHARLESMACPHERSON.COM

Hello J&R!

The ceremony of a Baptism or Christening is a religious event. So, to state what might seem obvious to some, a religious gift of some sort will always be appropriate in either case.

Such gifts might include a cross, rosary or even a small children's version of the Bible. You may even wish to consider having a mass said in the child's name, or giving a small bottle of Holy Water or a religious charm for future use on a charm bracelet or necklace.

You can also consider a small prayer book, a picture frame with the date engraved for a photograph of this important ceremony or an album/scrapbook to keep a copy of the church program, guest list, family pictures, footprints and anything else from the day.

HAVE A QUESTION? EMAIL CHARLES AT ASKCHARLESTHEBUTLER@METRONEWS.CA.

ISTOCK

▶ A cross or rosary would make for a good Baptism gift.

Will you be mine for less than $25?

Your heart may be full of love but that doesn't mean your wallet is Show you care without going into the red

ISTOCK

A homemade card can be a lot more meaningful than an expensive present.

FUN AND FRUGAL

LESLEY SCORGIE
MONEY@METRONEWS.CA

The spirit of Valentine's Day is to show your special someone that you care about, and value, them. And you don't need lavish gifts and a racked up credit card to acknowledge your partner.

Just like a grade-schooler, sit down for 20 minutes and make a card. Using red and pink paper, cut out hearts and glue a picture of your honey in the middle.

Somewhere within your homemade masterpiece, write out all the things you love about them. Who cares if you're not Picasso or Shakespeare; it doesn't matter. The thought is what counts.

Rather than booking a dinner out, try cooking a new recipe at home. Pick up fresh ingredients from your local grocer and a reasonably priced bottle of wine.

If your culinary skills are sorely lacking, buy an online coupon to an inexpensive restaurant. If the corkage fee is low, bring your own wine.

"Valentine's Day is your opportunity to make your partner feel special and you don't need a helicopter ride to prove you care."

If you're freaked out your partner might think you're a cheapskate, secretly slip the coupon to your server en route to the washroom.

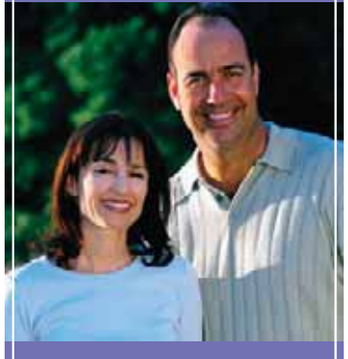
If you're planning to exchange gifts, be frugal. Agree to set a limit on your spending. Turn it into a game; who can buy the best Valentine's gift for less than $25.

Take advantage of coupons, clearance and 'end-of-season' sales. If you're into the great outdoors, give your partner a handmade 'IOU' to take them hiking, skating or skiing.

Turn off your computer and phones, fill up a thermos with hot chocolate and go for a romantic walk around your neighbourhood. Spend time talking or download an old movie.

Simply making time for your honey or helping them with a mundane task, like housework, means a lot.

Valentine's Day is your opportunity to make your partner feel special and you don't need a helicopter ride to prove you care.



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Slamming the stereotypes

Across the country, creative competitions are encouraging youth to engage in personal relationships with poetry

While reading and creating poetry are a mandatory part of the curriculum of most school systems, it's not a career path deemed as lucrative or even sustainable to many aspiring writers.

Yet with teachers finding ways to make the ancient literary genre accessible, poetry is far from dead.

Many young people are embracing it as a way to relate, express and project their ideas.

David Silverberg is artistic director of Toronto Poetry Slam, a group that organizes contemporary, often high-energy, poetry competitions throughout the city.

At least once a week, Silverberg gets an e-mail from a teacher hoping to have a poet perform in the classroom.

He said teachers often find the poetry unit in the curriculum a tough sell, and are trying to present it in creative ways.

"They're finding out about Slam and realizing that to make poetry jump off the page, they might need to have it performed by people who aren't much older than the actual students," he said. "People in their 20s and 30s, not dead white people."

Last year, a recitation competition called Poetry in Voice was launched in Ontario.

Founded and funded by philanthropist Scott Griffin (whose annual Griffin Poetry Prize is touted as being the world's richest), its purpose is to encourage students to develop a personal relationship with poetry, through memorization and performance.

TOM SANDLER/THE CANADIAN PRESS

▶ Winner Jonathan Welstead performs at the Poetry In Voice competition in Toronto in 2011.

TOM SANDLER/THE CANADIAN PRESS

▶ Competitor Spencer Slaney

The inaugural event proved to be so popular that it's expanded to Quebec this year, and will be a national competition by 2013.

The competition's creative director, Damian Rogers, said there are more opportunities to engage with contemporary poetry through slams and recitation contests than there were even a decade ago.

"They're finding out about Slam and realizing that to make poetry jump off the page, they might need to have it performed by people who aren't much older than the actual students..."
DAVID SILVERBERG
ARTISTIC DIRECTOR OF TORONTO POETRY SLAM

"I think the growing success of these programs is a reflection of the fact that many students are connecting with poetry as a meaningful way to express feelings and experiences that they would otherwise not find a way to express," she said.

Rogers talked to several teachers who were thrilled that some of the students taking part in the competition had found an outlet that they thoroughly enjoyed, since they didn't do well in athletics or drama.

"It seemed a bit of a game changer for some of (the students)," said Rogers, who is a published poet.

"It opened up a whole other area for them to excel in and a whole other opportunity to discover themselves."

Last year's Poetry in Voice winner Jonathan Welstead said that poetry appeals to him because it's the foundation to many modern forms of artistic expression.

"Poetry transcends artistic barriers to me," said the 18-year-old, who's a first-year student at University of King's College in Halifax. "Hip-hop culture has roots in poetry, so do most songs, and even theatre."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

#ImAPoet

Who knew that a quick social media update could be a flex of your poetic muscle?

- Although the younger generation seems to be more comfortable expressing themselves in 140 characters or less, Poetry in Voice winner Jonathan Welstead said people shouldn't be quick to dismiss tweeting or communicating through other forms of social network as lowly or unenlightened.
- "The Facebook status update is the most pure and accessible form of poetry today, even if it's lacking in quality," he said.
- "It's a medium for people to share their thoughts with each other in a structured and poetic form."

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WORKPLACE LAW

DANIEL LUBLIN
DAN@TORONTO-EMPLOYMENTLAWYER.COM
TWITTER: @DANLUBLIN

Here is a sampling of some of the workplace law questions I was asked this week, demonstrating why employees sometimes author their own workplace misfortunes:

ISTOCK

▶ A quick search online is not going to produce the perfect answer to your legal questions. Research thoroughly!

Resignations

If you resign with little or no notice, it is no surprise that your former employer will be reluctant to provide references or hold back some final pay.

Just as employers must provide you with reasonable notice of your termination, you must provide fair notice that you are going to resign.

Harassment claims

Today, mental "harassment" is the most overused word at work. Employers hate these complaints and the employees who make them, so unless you can show a clear case of misconduct, do not raise a harassment complaint unless you also want to find a new job.

Internet legal advice

Every employee now seems to be a workplace law "expert," able to find plenty of free legal advice about employment law on the Internet, which most of the time is plainly wrong. Be careful. If you are going to challenge your employer's decisions, however unjust, first make sure your view of the law is correct.

Employment Standards Act

Just because provincial or federal legislation says there is an entitlement to right or benefit, it does not mean that you are entitled to it. All of the workplace legislation across Canada contains hidden "qualifiers" — words that create exceptions or, in some cases, exemptions. Do not make assumptions based on legislation that you may not understand.

Workplace computers

Be careful when you use them for personal matters. Since privacy laws do not apply when you use your employer's computer at work, it can read and keep records of what you've written and done, without your consent.

Skeletons

Be wary of skeletons in your closet. Just about every employee has one. If yours is so bad you can't risk it being exposed, then do not challenge your employer's decision to discipline or dismiss you, however unjust. Some workplace skeletons, although not harmful to your case, will ultimately be harmful to your career.

DANIEL LUBLIN IS AN EMPLOYMENT LAWYER WITH WHITTEN & LUBLIN

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Cuddle up to your office cubicle this Valentine's

JULIA WEST
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MWN IN PHILADELPHIA

As you're running around buying chocolates for loved ones, spend a little time this Valentine's Day considering your affection for that other big part of your life: Your job.

"The average full-time employee is spending more than a third of their day on their job," says Anthony Morrison, vice president of career-matching company Cachinko.

"If anything is going to take up that much time, shouldn't it be something you love?"

If you're attempting to reignite the flame at work, remember why you initially fell in love with your position.

Heather Huhman, author and founder of recruitment consultants Come Recommended, suggests you stay positive.

"Think about all of the great things you've done," she says.

"Write down these successes in a spot where you can see them each day to keep your motivation high and attitude positive."

It can also help to form real relationships with co-workers. "Participate in the work community," says Huhman.

"It's important to interact with the folks you spend eight or more hours with each day. From time to time, engage in the water cooler chat, take your lunch in the cafeteria or ask a co-worker how their day is going."

Labour of love

Have you ever fallen out of love?

As for the everyday bad romances, it's your responsibility to keep negativity out of your cubicle. "No one is in charge of your happiness but you," says Lynne Sarikas, executive director of the MBA Career Center at Northeastern University in Boston. "If you have colleagues who like to moan and complain, don't listen."

"If anything is going to take up that much time, shouldn't it be something you love?" ANTHONY MORRISON
VICE-PRESIDENT OF CACHINKO

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Blue Jays strike deal with pitcher Janssen

The Toronto Blue Jays avoided arbitration with reliever Casey Janssen on Monday by signing the veteran right-hander to a $5.9-million US, two-year contract.

The deal includes a $4-million club option for the 2014 season.

Janssen was 6-0 with two saves last season and posted a 2.26 earned-run average over 55 appearances.

Meanwhile, the Boston Red Sox and David Ortiz also avoided salary arbitration by agreeing Monday to a one-year contract worth more than $14.5 million.

THE CANADIAN PRESS/ THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Argos add lineman Parenteau

The Toronto Argonauts announced the signing of veteran offensive lineman Marc Parenteau to a contract on Monday.

The 31-year-old from Sherbrooke, Que., spent the last five seasons with the Saskatchewan Roughriders, winning the Grey Cup in 2007.

The Argos also announced the re-signing of veteran defensive back Wes Lysack and the signings of defensive back Marcus Bell, wide receiver Jarmon Fortson and non-import offensive lineman Donnie McKenzie.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Loss to Habs still lingering with Leafs

Alternate captains to start season, Armstrong and Komisarek healthy scratches on Saturday 'I'll be ready when they need me,' says Armstrong

▶ Montreal's Lars Eller skates past Leafs captain Dion Phaneuf before scoring on James Reimer on Saturday night in Toronto.

Colby Armstrong kept his head down and tried to bite his lip. But there was little the Toronto Maple Leafs forward could do to conceal the fact he was still smarting two days after being made a healthy scratch.

"Obviously, I was upset about it," Armstrong said Monday.

The mood wasn't much better for those who suited up for Saturday's game — a 5-0 loss to Montreal on the night former captain Mats Sundin was honoured — which put an exclamation point on a week that raised a number of questions.

Arguably the most important of those surrounds the leadership group. Armstrong was joined in the press box by defenceman Mike Komisarek. Those two started the season as Dion Phaneuf's alternate captains, making it even more unusual that they would find themselves scratched on the same night.

While acknowledging it wasn't an easy decision, Ron Wilson said that no player can count on a guaranteed spot.

"Our guys understand it's a meritocracy," said the Leafs coach. "Whoever's playing best is going to be in the lineup."

Phil Kessel and Mikhail Grabovski each wore an "A" in the absence of Armstrong and Komisarek. It's likely to be a one-off occurrence, especially since defenceman Carl Gunnarsson left Monday's practice after crashing into the boards.

If Gunnarsson is unavailable for Tuesday's game in Calgary, Komisarek will be his replacement.

"Hopefully, it's not too serious," said Wilson.

The Leafs are among the youngest teams in the NHL, which appeared to play a role in Saturday's loss, where the Leafs came unglued during the second period after James Reimer let in a shaky goal that put the Habs up 1-0.

Despite a recent skid, Toronto remained eighth in the Eastern Conference as it boarded a plane Monday afternoon to set off for three games in Western Canada.

"Nothing's going to be easy, we know that," said forward Joffrey Lupul. "For the most part we've found a way to get the job done this year and we're going to have to continue to."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

4 sports

Leafs preview

Toronto at Calgary
9 p.m.
TV: SNET

The Flames (26-22-8) host the Leafs (28-22-6), who have lost three games in a row. Mikka Kiprusoff stopped 29 shots in a 3-2 shootout win over Vancouver on Saturday and has a 1.92 goals-against average through four starts this month. Tyler Bozak has seven points in his last five games playing between Phil Kessel and Joffrey Lupul. Mikael Backlund (shoulder) is the latest Flames player to join the injured list.

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FRANK FRANKLIN II/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

▶ Jeremy Lin drives past Matt Barnes during the first half Friday in New York.

Raptors hatch plan to stop 'Lin-sanity'

Comparisons to Steve Nash part of 'Linderella story' 23-year-old named Eastern Conference player of the week after his first week as an NBA starter

Dwane Casey is a huge Jeremy Lin fan, but the Raptors coach stops short of being swept up in the "Lin-sanity."

The biggest story in the NBA is in Toronto on Tuesday as the New York Knicks visit, but the coach who worked with the global sensation when he was a skinny non-descript guard fresh out of Harvard cautions against letting Lin's presence turn into a "sideshow.

"We're here for business," Casey said. "He's a wonderful young man, I'm happy for him, but I'm not going to be happy for him (Tuesday) night. I want to kick his butt."

"We're going to respect him as a starter. We're not looking at this wunderkind, we're looking at him as an NBA starting point guard and we'll treat him as such."
RAPTORS COACH DWANE CASEY

Lin's lightning-swift rise from a seldom-used player to NBA phenomenon has caught the imagination of fans around the world, and his inspirational tale has already been well-documented.

The first American-born NBA player of Asian heritage. A Harvard graduate who went undrafted. Cut by both Golden State and Houston.

Lin was trying to land a job with the Mavericks in the summer league in 2010 when Casey was a coach with Dallas.

"My question to him was 'Why the hell do you want to be an NBA player? You're smarter than all of us, you've got an honours degree from Harvard,'" Casey said laughing. "He did a heck of a job in our summer league.

"He's played well, and he's had the opportunity. He was prepared for the opportunity, he's taking advantage of it."

Lin has averaged 27.3 points and 8.3 assists while leading the Knicks to a 4-0 record, and his 109 points are the most by an NBA player in his first four starts since the 1976-77 season.

He also became the first player in NBA history to tally at least 20 points and seven assists in each of his first four starts.

His spectacular week came barely a month after he posted on Twitter: "Everytime i try to get into Madison Square Garden, the security guards ask me if im a trainer LOL."

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NATIONAL HOCKEY LEAGUE

EASTERN CONFERENCE

	GP	W	L	OTL	SL	GF	GA	Pts	Home	Away	Last 10	Strk
d-NY Rangers	54	36	13	1	4	153	110	77	18-6-0-2	18-7-1-2	7-2-0-1	W3
d-Boston	53	34	17	1	1	184	120	70	18-9-1-1	16-8-0-0	5-4-1-0	W1
d-Florida	55	27	17	5	6	141	152	65	14-5-1-6	13-12-4-0	6-3-0-1	W3
Pittsburgh	56	32	19	2	3	175	148	69	17-7-2-0	15-12-0-3	7-2-0-1	W2
Philadelphia	56	31	18	2	5	182	169	69	13-9-1-4	18-9-1-1	3-4-0-3	L2
New Jersey	55	31	20	1	3	154	155	66	15-10-0-3	16-10-1-0	5-3-0-2	L2
Ottawa	58	28	22	6	2	169	181	64	15-11-2-1	13-11-4-1	2-6-2-0	L1
Toronto	56	28	22	3	3	171	166	62	16-9-2-2	12-13-1-1	5-4-0-1	L3
Washington	56	28	23	2	3	156	160	61	19-8-0-2	9-15-2-1	3-4-2-1	L3
Winnipeg	57	26	25	3	3	139	161	58	16-8-0-2	10-17-3-1	4-5-0-1	L1
Montreal	57	23	25	2	7	152	154	55	11-12-2-5	12-13-0-2	6-4-0-0	L1
Tampa Bay	55	24	25	3	3	155	185	54	15-8-1-1	9-17-2-2	6-2-2-0	L1
Buffalo	55	24	25	3	3	136	158	54	13-10-3-3	11-15-0-0	5-4-0-1	L1
NY Islanders	55	23	24	5	3	131	159	54	12-13-5-0	11-11-1-2	5-3-1-1	L1
Carolina	57	21	25	7	4	147	175	53	14-12-0-3	7-13-7-1	5-1-3-1	W1

WESTERN CONFERENCE

	GP	W	L	OTL	SL	GF	GA	Pts	Home	Away	Last 10	Strk
d-Detroit	57	38	17	1	1	182	135	78	23-2-1-0	15-15-0-1	7-2-0-1	W3
d-Vancouver	55	34	15	0	6	178	138	74	15-6-0-4	19-9-0-2	6-1-0-3	L1
d-San Jose	54	31	17	3	3	158	130	68	18-9-2-0	13-8-1-3	5-4-0-1	W1
St. Louis	55	34	14	1	6	139	111	75	24-3-1-3	10-11-0-3	7-2-0-1	W4
Nashville	56	32	18	3	3	158	148	70	17-7-2-2	15-11-1-1	6-2-0-2	L3
Chicago	56	29	20	4	3	174	171	65	19-6-1-3	10-14-3-0	2-7-1-0	L8
Los Angeles	57	27	19	5	6	124	124	65	15-11-0-4	12-8-5-2	4-4-1-1	W1
Phoenix	56	27	21	3	5	148	144	62	14-10-2-2	13-11-1-3	6-3-0-1	W5
Calgary	56	26	22	4	4	134	151	60	15-8-1-1	11-14-3-3	5-2-1-2	W1
Colorado	57	28	25	3	1	146	159	60	16-13-0-1	12-12-3-0	4-4-1-1	L1
Dallas	55	28	24	0	3	145	157	59	15-11-0-2	13-13-0-1	4-5-0-1	L2
Minnesota	55	25	22	2	6	125	144	58	13-9-1-2	12-13-1-4	3-6-0-1	L4
Anaheim	55	22	24	4	5	144	163	53	15-13-2-0	7-11-2-5	6-2-1-1	W1
Edmonton	55	22	28	1	4	147	165	49	15-8-1-2	7-20-0-2	5-4-0-1	W1
Columbus	56	16	34	1	5	131	185	38	9-15-1-2	7-19-0-3	3-6-0-1	L1

d — division leaders ranked 1-2-3 regardless of points; a team winning in overtime or shootout is credited with two points and a victory in the W column; the team losing in overtime or shootout receives one point which is registered in the OTL (overtime loss) or SL (shootout loss) column.

Last night's results
Carolina 5 Montreal 3
San Jose 5 Washington 3
Phoenix at Vancouver
Sunday's results
Florida 4 Islanders 1
N.Y. Rangers 3 Washington 2
Anaheim 5 Columbus 3
Los Angeles 4 Dallas 2
St. Louis 3 San Jose 0
Pittsburgh 4 Tampa Bay 2
Detroit 4 Philadelphia 3
Tonight's games
All Times Eastern
N.Y. Rangers at Boston, 7 p.m.
New Jersey at Buffalo, 7 p.m.
St. Louis at Columbus, 7 p.m.
Ottawa at Tampa Bay, 7 p.m.
Dallas at Detroit, 7:30 p.m.
Anaheim at Minnesota, 7:30 p.m.
Chicago at Nashville, 8 p.m.
N.Y. Islanders at Winnipeg, 8:30 p.m.
Toronto at Calgary, 9 p.m.
Tomorrow's games
Anaheim at Pittsburgh, 7 p.m.
Boston at Montreal, 7:30 p.m.
Ottawa at Florida, 7:30 p.m.
Toronto at Edmonton, 10 p.m.
Colorado at Vancouver, 10 p.m.
Thursday's games
Chicago at N.Y. Rangers, 7 p.m.
Buffalo at Philadelphia, 7 p.m.
San Jose at Tampa Bay, 7:30 p.m.
N.Y. Islanders at St. Louis, 8 p.m.
Winnipeg at Minnesota, 8 p.m.
Calgary at Dallas, 8:30 p.m.
Phoenix at Los Angeles, 10:30 p.m.

HURRICANES 5, CANADIENS 3

First Period
1. Carolina, Tlusty 13 (Allen) 3:09
Penalties — Bourque Mtl (high-sticking) 10:49, Emelin Mtl (tripping) 13:33.
Second Period
2. Carolina, Spacek 2 (Skinner, Jokinen) 9:41 (pp)
3. Montreal, Plekanec 12 (Campoli, Darche) 11:53
4. Montreal, Cole 21 (Desharnais, Kaberle) 15:57 (pp)
5. Montreal, Desharnais 11 (Subban, Pacioretty) 17:53 (pp)
Penalties — Staal Car (check to the head) 3:47, Subban Mtl (holding) 3:59, Skinner Car, Desharnais Mtl (unsportsmanlike conduct) 6:45, Diaz Mtl (tripping) 8:03, Skinner Car (high-sticking) 15;03, Harrison Car (cross-checking) 16:36.
Third Period
6. Carolina, Staal 15, 3:15 (sh)
7. Carolina, McBain 5 (Staal, Falk) 8:50 (pp)
8. Carolina, Staal 16 (McBain) 19:24 (en)
Penalties — Allen Car (hooking) 3:09, Campoli Mtl (slashing) 8:11, Samson (tripping) 14:46, Allen Car (roughing) 18:08, Bourque Mtl (roughing) 18:08.

Shots

Carolina	16	8	11	35
Montreal	6	12	14	32

Goal — Carolina: Ward (W,21-18-10); Montreal: Price (L,21-20-8). **Power plays (goals-chances)** — Carolina: 2-5; Montreal: 2-5. **Referees** — Gord Dwyer, Eric Furlatt. **Linesmen** — Pierre Racicot, Tony Sericolo. **Attendance** — 21,273 (21,273) at Montreal.

NCAA BASKETBALL

AP MEN'S TOP 25 POLL

Through Feb. 12

	Record	Pts	Prv
1. Kentucky (63)	25-1	1,623	1
2. Syracuse (2)	25-1	1,559	2
3. Missouri	23-2	1,498	4
4. Kansas	20-5	1,356	7
5. Duke	21-4	1,336	10
6. Ohio St.	21-4	1,284	3
7. Michigan St.	20-5	1,283	11
8. North Carolina	21-4	1,227	5
9. Baylor	21-4	1,064	6
10. Georgetown	19-5	983	12
11. UNLV	22-4	976	14
12. Marquette	21-5	810	18
13. San Diego St.	20-4	688	13
14. Florida	19-6	675	8
15. Wisconsin	19-6	635	21
16. Murray St.	24-1	600	9
17. Michigan	19-7	562	22
18. Indiana	19-6	430	23
19. Louisville	20-5	421	24
20. Florida St.	17-7	406	15
21. Saint Mary's (Cal)	23-3	377	16
22. Virginia	19-5	337	19
23. Notre Dame	17-8	231	—
24. Gonzaga	20-4	221	—
24. Wichita St.	22-4	221	—

Others receiving votes: Temple 122, Mississippi St. 108, Creighton 20, BYU 12, Long Beach St. 12, New Mexico 12, Iowa St. 10, Southern Miss. 7, Harvard 6, Saint Louis 5, California 3, VCU 2, Vanderbilt 2, Memphis 1.
Ballots Online: http://tinyurl.com/43u6jr6
Last night's results
No. 2 Syracuse 52 **No. 19** Louisville 51
No. 9 Baylor 79 blowa State 64
No. 4 Kansas at Kansas State
Tonight's games
All Times Eastern
No. 6 Ohio State at Minnesota, 9 p.m.
No. 11 UNLV at TCU, 7:30 p.m.
No. 14 Florida at Alabama, 7 p.m.
No. 22 Virginia at Clemson, 7 p.m.
Tomorrow's games
No. 3 Missouri vs. Oklahoma State, 9 p.m.
No. 8 North Carolina at Miami, 8 p.m.
No. 13 San Diego State vs. New Mexico, 10 p.m.
No. 16 Murray St. at Southeast Missouri St., 8 p.m.
No. 18 Indiana vs. Northwestern, 6:30 p.m.
No. 21 Saint Mary's (Cal) vs. Loyola Marymount, 10:30 p.m.
No. 23 Notre Dame vs. Rutgers, 7 p.m.
No. 24 Wichita State vs. Missouri State, 8:05 p.m.

NLL

EAST DIVISION

	GP	W	L	Pct.	GF	GA	GB
Toronto	5	3	2	.600	61	56	—
Philadelphia	5	3	2	.600	55	69	—
Buffalo	6	2	4	.333	70	76	1½
Rochester	6	1	5	.167	73	76	2½

WEST DIVISION

Colorado	5	5	0	1.000	71	56	—
Minnesota	5	4	1	.800	68	62	1
Calgary	5	3	2	.600	62	57	2
Edmonton	4	1	3	.250	44	39	3½
Washington	5	1	4	.200	46	61	4

WEEK SIX
Sunday's results
Minnesota 9 Rochester 6
Philadelphia 14 Buffalo 13
WEEK SEVEN
Saturday, Feb. 18
All Times Eastern
Philadelphia at Toronto, 7 p.m.
Washington at Rochester, 7:30 p.m.
Colorado at Minnesota, 8 p.m.
Edmonton at Calgary, 9 p.m.

TENNIS

WTA QATAR TOTAL OPEN

At Doha, Qatar
Singles — First Round
Ksenia Pervak, Kazakhstan, def. Anastasia Pavlyuchenkova (10), Russia, 1-6, 6-2, 6-3.
Peng Shuai (12), China, def. Fatma Al Nabhani, Oman. 6-0, 7-5.
Ana Ivanovic (13), Serbia, def. Carla Suarez Navarro, Spain, 6-1, 4-1 (retired).
Svetlana Kuznetsova (14), Russia, def. Maria Jose Martinez Sanchez, Spain, 7-5, 6-3.
Varvara Lepchenko, U.S., def. **Aleksandra Wozniak, Blainville, Que.**, 6-3, 6-3.
Kateryna Bondarenko, Ukraine, def. Vera Dushevina, Russia, 7-5, 6-2.
Anne Keothavong, Britain, def. Tamira Paszek, Austria, 7-6 (4), 7-6 (5).
Shahar Peer, Israel. def. Nadia Lalami, Morocco, 6-0, 6-0.
Mona Barthel, Germany, def. Caroline Garcia, France, 7-6 (6), 7-6 (4).
Christina McHale, U.S., def. Chanelle Scheepers, South Africa, 6-4, 6-3.
Tsvetana Pironkova, Bulgaria, def. Polona Hercog, Slovakia, 6-0, 6-4.
Monica Niculescu, Romania, def. Elena Vesnina, Russia, 6-1, 6-0.
Doubles — First Round
Julia Goerges, Germany, and Zheng Jie (7), China, def. Fatma Al Nabhani, Omar, and Ons Jabeur, Tunisia, 6-3, 6-1.
Anabel Medina Garrigues, Spain, and Anastasia Pavlyuchenkova, Russia, def. Sorana Cirstea, Romania, and Anne Keothavong, Britain, 2-6, 6-2, 10-2 (tiebreak).
Andreja Klepac, Slovenia, and Alicja Rosolska, Poland, def. Bojana Jovanovski, Serbia, and Nadia Lalami, Morocco, 6-3, 6-1.
Vera Dushevina, Russia, and Shahar Peer, Israel, def. Flavia Pennetta and Francesca Schiavone, Italy, 6-2, 5-7, 10-7 (tiebreak).

ATP ABN AMRO WORLD TOURNAMENT

At Rotterdam, Netherlands
Singles — First Round
Paul-Henri Mathieu, France, def. Feliciano Lopez (4), Spain, 4-6, 7-6 (5), 6-4.
Richard Gasquet (5), France, def. Flavio Cipolla, Italy, 6-3, 1-6, 6-1.
Lukasz Kubot, Poland, def. Alexandr Dolgopolov (6), Ukraine, 6-7 (4), 6-4, 6-2.
Jesse Huta Galung, Netherlands, def. Ivan Ljubicic, Croatia, 7-6 (6), 6-3.

WTA COPA BBVA COLSANITAS

At Bogota, Colombia
Singles — First Round
Valeria Savinykh, Russia, def. Mathilde Johansson (6), France, 7-6 (2), 3-6, 7-5.
Lara Arruabarrena-Vecino, Spain, def. Patricia Mayr-Achleitner (8), Austria, 6-1, 3-6, 7-6 (3).
Mariana Duque-Marino, Colombia, def. Tetiana Luzhanska, U.S., 3-6, 6-4, 7-5.
Petra Rampre, Slovenia, def. Karen Castiblanco, Colombia, 6-3, 6-4.
Doubles — First Round
Catalina Castano and Mariana Duque-Marino, Colombia, def. **Sharon Fichman, Toronto**, and Sun Sheng-Nan (2), China, 6-2, 6-4.
Edina Gallovits-Hall, Romania, and Karin Knapp, Italy, def. Tetiana Luzhanska, U.S., and Kathrin Woerle (3), Germany, 7-6 (10), 2-6, 10-4 (tiebreak).
Lourdes Dominguez Lino, Spain, and Romina Oprandi, Switzerland, def. Maria Fernanda Alves, Brazil, and Julia Cohen, U.S., 6-1, 6-0.

SOCCER

ITALY

SERIE A

Team	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
AC Milan	23	14	5	4	45	20	47
Juventus	21	12	9	0	33	13	45
Lazio	23	12	6	5	37	24	42
Udinese	23	12	5	6	34	21	41
Inter Milan	23	11	3	9	34	30	36
Roma	23	10	5	8	36	27	35
Napoli	23	8	10	5	38	24	34
Palermo	23	9	4	10	33	34	31
Cagliari	23	7	9	7	22	24	30
Genoa	22	9	3	10	31	42	30
Fiorentina	21	7	7	7	23	19	28
Catania	21	6	9	6	27	29	27
Parma	21	7	5	9	27	34	27
Chievo Verona	23	7	6	10	19	30	27
x-Atalanta	22	7	9	6	25	27	24
Siena	22	5	8	9	22	22	23
Bologna	21	5	7	9	18	26	22
Lecce	23	4	6	13	22	38	18
Cesena	22	4	4	14	15	34	16
Novara	23	3	7	13	19	42	16

x-penalized 6 points in betting scandal
Yesterday's results
Napoli 2 Chievo Verona 0
Siena 1 Roma 0
Tomorrow's games
Genoa at Atalanta
Catania at Cesena (ppd., weather)
Juventus at Parma

SPAIN

LA LIGA

Team	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
Real Madrid	22	19	1	2	75	21	58
Barcelona	22	14	6	2	63	16	48
Valencia	22	11	7	4	35	22	40
Levante	22	9	5	8	29	29	32
Espanyol	22	9	5	8	25	26	32
Atletico Madrid	22	8	7	7	31	27	31
Malaga	22	9	4	9	28	32	31
Osasuna	22	7	10	5	26	35	31
Athletic Bilbao	22	7	9	6	34	30	30
Rayo Vallecano	22	8	4	10	27	32	28
Real Sociedad	22	7	6	9	25	30	27
Getafe	22	7	6	9	22	29	27
Sevilla	22	6	8	8	22	26	26
Real Betis	22	8	2	12	25	31	26
Villarreal	22	6	8	8	23	30	26
Mallorca	22	6	7	9	19	28	25
Granada	22	7	4	11	17	31	25
Racing Santander	22	4	11	7	18	26	23
Sporting Gijon	22	5	4	13	20	43	19
Zaragoza	22	3	6	13	18	38	15

Yesterday's result
Real Sociedad 2 Sevilla 0

EUROPEAN CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

SECOND ROUND

FIRST LEG
Today's games
All Times Eastern
Bayer Leverkusen (Germany) vs. Barcelona (Spain), 2:45 p.m.
Lyon (France) vs. APOEL Nicosia (Cyprus), 2:45 p.m.
Wednesday Games
Zenit St. Petersburg (Russia) vs. Benfica (Portugal), 12 p.m.
AC Milan (Italy) vs. Arsenal (England), 2:45 p.m.
Tuesday, Feb. 21
CSKA Moscow (Russia) vs. Real Madrid (Spain), 12 p.m.
Napoli (Italy) vs. Chelsea (England), 2:45 p.m.
Wednesday, Feb. 22
Basel (Switzerland) vs. Bayern Munich (Germany), 2:45 p.m.
Marseille (France) vs. Inter Milan (Italy), 2:45 p.m.

NBA

EASTERN CONFERENCE

	W	L	Pct	GB
d-Chicago	23	7	.767	—
d-Miami	22	7	.759	½
d-Philadelphia	20	9	.690	2½
Atlanta	18	10	.643	4
Indiana	17	10	.630	4½
Orlando	18	11	.621	4½
Boston	15	12	.556	6½
New York	13	15	.464	9
Milwaukee	12	16	.429	10
Cleveland	10	16	.385	11
Toronto	9	20	.310	13½
Detroit	8	21	.276	14½
New Jersey	8	21	.276	14½
Washington	6	22	.214	16
Charlotte	3	25	.107	19

WESTERN CONFERENCE

	W	L	Pct	GB
d-Oklahoma City	21	6	.778	—
d-L.A. Clippers	17	8	.680	3
d-San Antonio	19	9	.679	2½
Dallas	17	11	.607	4½
L.A. Lakers	16	12	.571	5½
Houston	16	12	.571	5½
Denver	16	12	.571	5½
Utah	14	12	.538	6½
Portland	15	13	.536	6½
Memphis	14	14	.500	7½
Minnesota	13	16	.448	9
Phoenix	12	15	.444	9
Golden State	10	14	.417	9½
Sacramento	10	17	.370	11
New Orleans	4	23	.148	17

d — division leaders ranked in top four positions regardless of record.

Last night's results
Philadelphia 98 Charlotte 89
Orlando 102 Minnesota 89
Miami 114 Milwaukee 96
Utah at New Orleans
L.A. Clippers at Dallas
Phoenix at Golden State
Sunday's results
L.A. Lakers 94 Toronto 92
Boston 95 Chicago 91
Washington 98 Detroit 77
Miami 107 Atlanta 87
Golden State 106 Houston 97
Utah 98 Memphis 88
Tonight's games
All Times Eastern
Miami at Indiana, 7 p.m.
New York at Toronto, 7 p.m.
San Antonio at Detroit, 7:30 p.m.
Sacramento at Chicago, 8 p.m.
Utah at Oklahoma City, 8 p.m.
Houston at Memphis, 8 p.m.
Phoenix at Denver, 9 p.m.
Washington at Portland, 10 p.m.
Atlanta at L.A. Lakers, 10:30 p.m.
Tomorrow's games
San Antonio at Toronto, 7 p.m.
Philadelphia at Orlando, 7 p.m.
Detroit at Boston, 7:30 p.m.
Indiana at Cleveland, 7:30 p.m.
Memphis at New Jersey, 7:30 p.m.
Sacramento at New York, 7:30 p.m.
Oklahoma City at Houston, 8 p.m.
Charlotte at Minnesota, 8 p.m.
New Orleans at Milwaukee, 8 p.m.
Denver at Dallas, 8:30 p.m.
Atlanta at Phoenix, 9 p.m.
Portland at Golden State, 10 p.m.
Washington at L.A. Clippers, 10:30 p.m.

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- ☑ Debt Collectors Harassment
- ☑ 24hr Approvals
- ☑ Power of Sale

Current Situation	Current Payment	New Situation	New Payment
MTG(5%)300,000	$1,745.00	New MTG(2.8%) $350,000	$1,621.00
Loans/CC-45,000	$1,350.00	ALL LOANS PAID	--------
Penalty-5,000	--------	MONTHLY SAVINGS OF $1474.00	

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A mi Mama Mamita querida de mi corazon yo te quiero mucho con todo mi amor
Paulina xoxoxox

Babe, I'm sorry for all the fighting this week. Just wanted to tell you that I love you. This time im saying it first. I love you so much. From Randy.

Betty,
You're my perfect partner, lover, trusted friend. We're safe within our love, a love that will never end. - Love Richard

Valentine's Greetings

**I see You!
Happy Valentine's Day!
Wayne Lau**

**Me & You,
Just Us Two.
I Love You Babe.
082307. - Ameria & Dylan.**

Michael Holmes, almost 13 yrs and in all your inperfection you are still adored!
Happy Valentine's Day my love.
I'd marry you again. Katie

Mommy loves her BBDuck
Happy Valentine's Day

Valentine's Greetings

C Campbell. I look in your eyes you smile at me, each time love is renewed. When we laugh together it reminds me you are my soel mate. I love you My Valentine. N Samuels

**CRISTYAN,
Today is a day to speak from the heart, and mine says
"I love you so much."**

Happy Valentine's Day, Yi Lin
Thank you for bringing me a lovely daughter you're a good woman with virtue inside and I love you.

Dearest Faren,
I'm ecstatic you'll become my wife, move into our new home this year, and continue our journey together. **Love Kevin**

Valentine's Greetings

FK
Love is being patient, kind and caring even in difficult times. Can't wait to begin the journey of Mr & Mrs! With love and kisses soon to be Mrs.

Happy Valentine's Day
To my beautiful princess,
I love you very much!
Yoshi!

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Valentine's Greetings

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Manesh

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Valentine's Greetings

BSH
I love you sweetheart.
You are my happiness and you are my Valentine Forever!!!

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Valentine's Greetings

My husband, Jason St. Thomas
I vow to you that I will continue to love and respect you. You're my happily ever after. You and I until the end of time baby. **I LOVE YOU!**
Your wife,
Lianne St. Thomas

Sal,
You are my everything!! I love our trips together especially to the moon.
I love you. Beans xoxoxoxo

Shall I compare **Isabel** to a summer's day?
Thou art more lovely and more temperate,
Ruff winds do shake the darling buds of May,
And summer's lease hath all too short a date.
Happy Valentine's Day
www.tinyurl.com\isabeljosh

Tanzim,
A loving husband and a caring dad.
Your strength holds our family together in good times and bad.
We love you with our heart and soul.
Nusrat and Norah , 2012

This Valentine's Day I'm letting you know I love all the 7 billion people of the world. Every one of them. And they are in my prayers. Helen H.

To Angela Sevilla Padua,
Will YOU MARRY ME?
I love You
Ben Padua

General Help

To JJJ,
I love you in so many ways and for so many reasons. You are simply the best!
Love MG

Wishing the best Dad, VALENTINO GONZALES, a wonderful birthday! Love you and Happy Valentino's Day!
Love, Pinky & P.J.

With all my love to Seoul
Will you be my Valentine, Jin?
Love Ming

To Kahori,
I love you so much. I will emigrate to Japan for you. Isiteru
From Kunhyuk

To My Beautiful Ayles,
Happy 1st of many Valentines Days.
Love you forever
Love your David xoxoxo

To My Beautiful Wife,
Dimple Natasha Donato
I want to thank you for being my friend, my love, my heart and soul.
Happy Valentine's Day!
Ti Amo Frank

To My Darling Niles,
With your delicious sense of humor and good food, you sizzled your way into my heart. I love my chef.
Happy Valentine's Day
Love Joanna

To the best hubby in the world!
Happy Valentine's Day
BAKO Jaan!
Love your Wiffy.

To the love of my life, JUSTIN COLLINS
You mean everything to me!
Love and in love,
Your Pinky Baby

General Help

To the most wonderful, handsomest man in the world
Chad A. Verhaaff,
Don't ever forget how amazing you are.
Thank-you for finding me.
I love you,
Jenn NG

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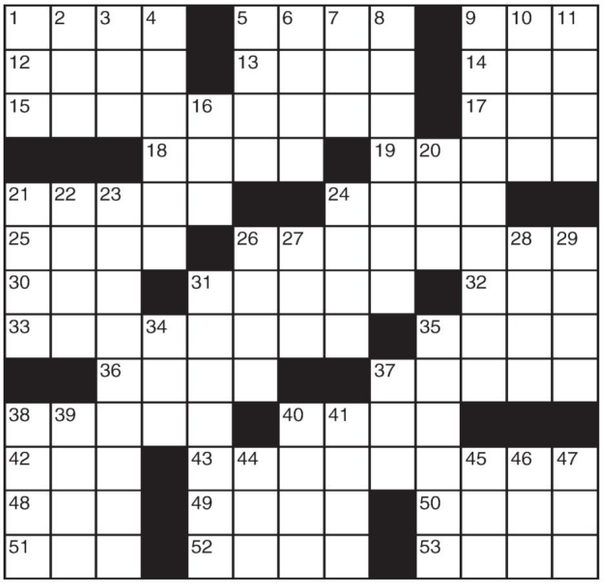
Crossword



Across

1 Mexican peninsula
5 Mussolini's title
9 Scoundrel
12 Culture medium
13 Composer Khachaturian
14 Past
15 Tea party guest
17 Regret
18 Corridor
19 Indy 500 entrant
21 Sorts
24 Conk on the noggin
25 Frost
26 Guaranteed to work
30 Bobby of hockey fame
31 Technophiles' magazine
32 Blue
33 Comfy chair
35 Existed
36 Female red deer
37 Pyromaniac's crime
38 Packing heat
40 Sagacious
42 Spelling contest
43 Some "USA Today" illustrations
48 Crib
49 Sheltered
50 Grand
51 Pismire
52 Pentagon VIPs
53 Barrel part

Down

1 Emeril's interjection
2 — Khan
3 It holds the mayo
4 William Tell, notably
5 Willy Wonka's creator
6 Caspian feeder
7 Automobile
8 May birthstone
9 Movie action scenes, often
10 Chills and fever
11 Active one
16 Owns
20 Donkey
21 Explorer Heyerdahl
22 Bygone times
23 Old paper
24 Coffin stand
26 Locate
27 100 square meters
28 Gambling game
29 Paradise
31 Talkative one
34 Falsehood
35 Christmas door decoration
37 Blond shade
38 "Waterloo" quartet
39 Check
40 Small songbird
41 Chills
44 Hearty quaff
45 Pi follower
46 Overly
47 Dine

▶ Monday's answer

S	E	W	S	■	E	A	R	■	G	A	S	P		
O	R	A	T	O	R	I	O	■	O	N	T	O		
S	A	G	A	M	O	R	E	■	O	N	E	S		
■	■	■	Y	E	S	■	N	E	G	A	T	E		
R	A	V	E	N	■	O	T	T	O	■	■	■		
A	G	E	D	■	T	A	G	A	L	O	G	■		
N	O	R	■	M	O	S	E	S	■	B	A	A		
■	G	A	G	A	R	I	N	■	C	O	G	S		
■	■	■	R	A	M	S	■	W	R	E	A	K		
R	E	G	I	M	E	■	O	H	O	■	■	■		
I	D	O	L	■	N	A	G	A	S	A	K	I		
G	I	R	L	■	T	R	E	M	B	L	E	D		
S	T	Y	E	■	S	E	E	■	Y	E	N	S		

Sudoku

				8		2	9	7
		4						3
	5				6		1	
			5			6		
8	6		7		2		5	1
		1			8			
	9		3				2	
6						7		
3	4	2		5				

How to play

Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

Monday's answer ▶

4	1	8	6	2	3	5	9	7
6	5	2	1	7	9	4	3	8
9	7	3	8	4	5	1	2	6
3	4	6	9	1	2	7	8	5
2	8	5	7	6	4	3	1	9
7	9	1	5	3	8	2	6	4
8	2	9	3	5	7	6	4	1
5	6	4	2	8	1	9	7	3
1	3	7	4	9	6	8	5	2

Send a KISS

You can now post your kiss, and read even more kisses, at metronews.ca/kiss.

Meaghan
You make me happy everyday, I am lucky to have you in my life. I love you more everyday and want to spend rest of my life with you xoxoxoxoxoxo
AJ

Furnace Man
You make me laugh. You melt my heart. I've got the hots for you. Now get over here and kiss me.
ICE QUEEN

R-my first love
Hi, Just wanted to say I love you and always will. Even if things didn't work out as planned, you will always be my first love and no one will be able to replace that! I will think of you every day and hope that you will not forget what we shared together...I will love you always and I truly wish you the best..thanks for 6 great years of my life xoxo
S

Today 2°/0° Flurries 40%
Wednesday 4°/-1° Variable
Know what the weather will be 14 days from now. Check the 14 day trend.
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Today's horoscope

For today's crossword answers and for expanded horoscopes, go to metronews.ca

♈ Aries March 21-April 20
It's not that you've lost your edge, it's just that you can't be bothered to argue about trivialities.

♉ Taurus April 21-May 21
Try not to identify too strongly with one particular point of view today.

♊ Gemini May 22-June 21
Someone who has not put nearly as much time and effort into a project will get most of the praise today and, of course, you won't be happy about it.

♋ Cancer June 22-July 22 You may be the centre of attention but don't let it turn your head.

♌ Leo July 23-Aug.23
You have done so many favours for so many people that you have probably lost track of them all, but they have not forgotten and over the next few days others will find ways to repay you.

♍ Virgo Aug. 24- Sept. 22
Be careful others don't take advantage of your laidback attitude today. You'll care if it costs you money.

♎ Libra Sept. 23-Oct. 23
Something is confusing you and the more you try to make sense of it the less you understand.

♏ Scorpio Oct. 24-Nov. 22
If you don't know the answer to something then ask someone who does.

♐ Sagittarius Nov. 23-Dec. 21 Take your time today and try to avoid situations where you don't have full control over what is going on around you.

♑ Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 20
The more you reach out the more love you'll let in.

♒ Aquarius Jan. 21-Feb. 18
Focus on your long-term goals and don't allow yourself to be distracted by passing fancies.

♓ Pisces Feb. 19-March 20 Even if you are the kind of Pisces who tends to hold grudges you will be very forgiving today.

SALLY BROMPTON

Caption contest

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"Eat my dust buddy!!"
CHRISTINA

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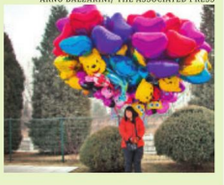

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You write it!

Write a funny caption for the image above and send it to play@metronews.ca — the winning caption will be published in Tuesday's Metro.

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3. Billy Idol - White Wedding
4. Supertramp - The Logical Song
5. Barenaked Ladies - If I Had A $1,000,000
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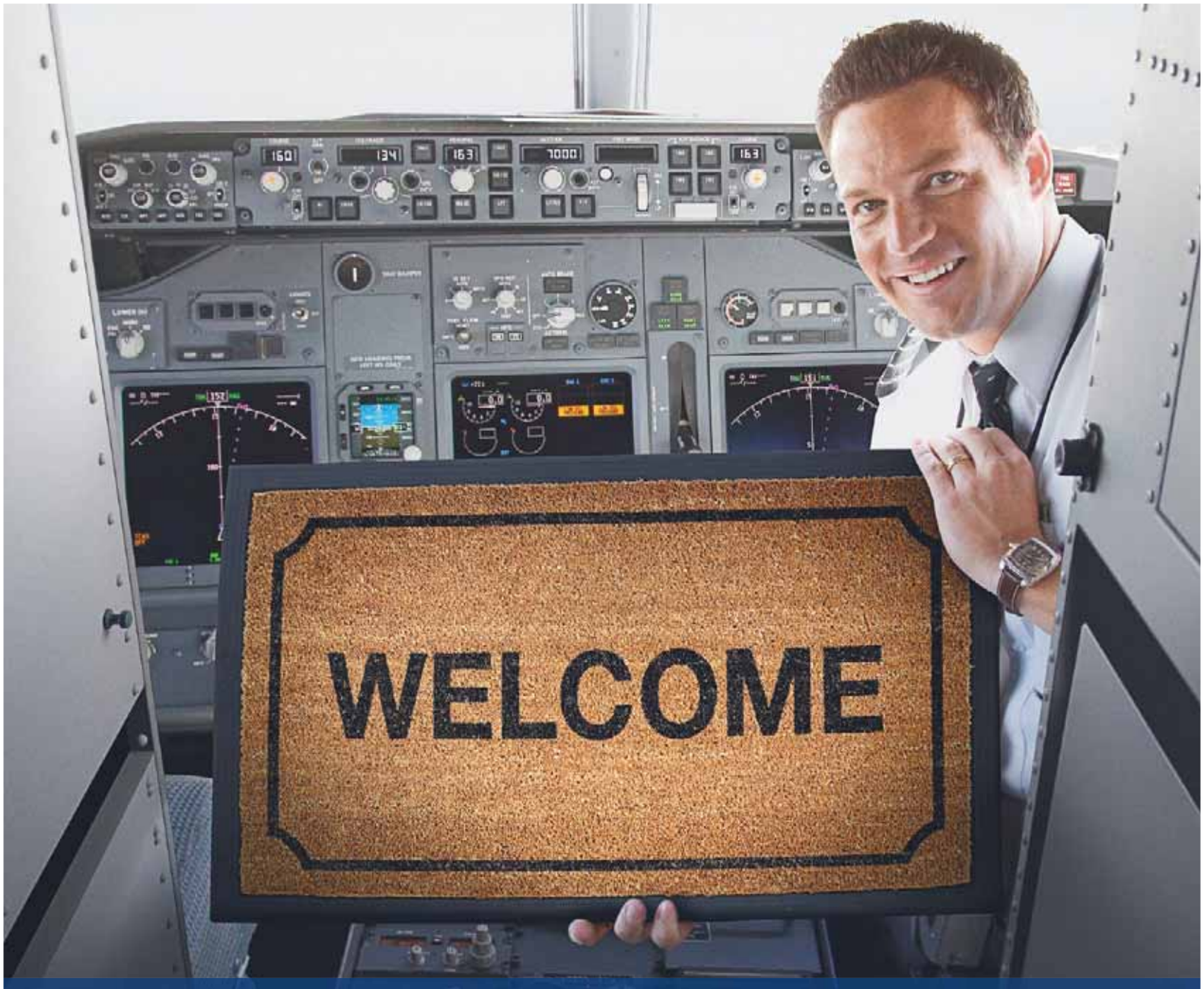

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